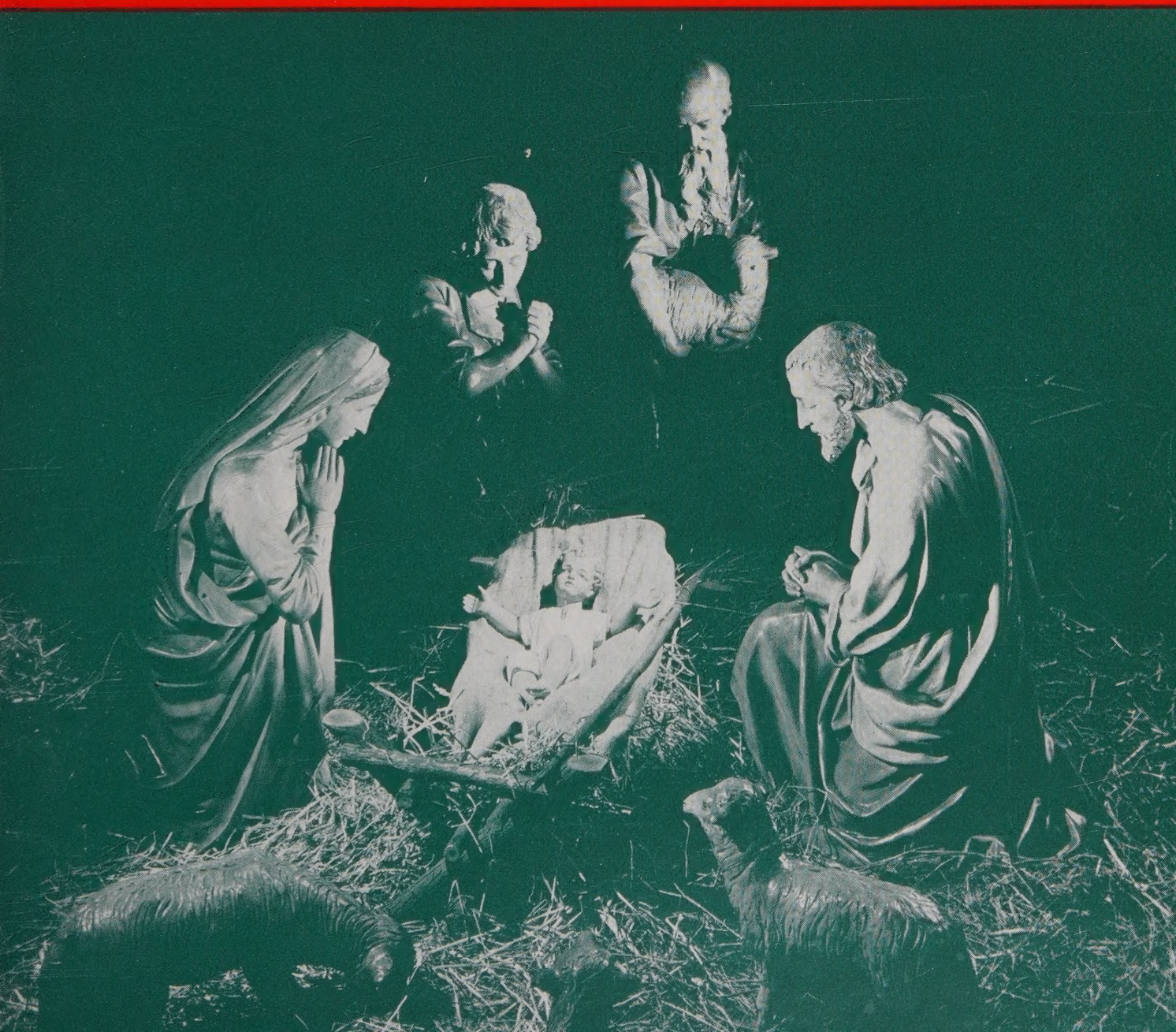
Shepherds

December, 1948



Christmas 1948

What better time than Christmas for all who bear the name of Christian to emulate the Founder of our Faith and turn in prayer to Almighty God? Through prayer we can know the Master's will. Through prayer we can gain freedom from the fears that haunt the lives of men who know not His way. Through prayer we join with all mankind in a universal fellowship. Through prayer---in the quiet of solitude and at the family altar---we come to the rich heritage that is ours through Christ Let us make this Christmas a holiday season that shall indeed be holy. Let us resolve that through us God's will shall be done, and that from us our children will find the way that they too may follow in the steps of the Master.

Family devotions can make the holidays Holy Days in your home.

THE UPPER ROOM

"Be instant in season, out of season . . . make full proof of thy ministry."

At Christmas time
New Year's Eve
Covenant Sunday

"preach the word . . .
"reprove, rebuke, exhort . . .
"watch thou in all things . . .
"do the work of an evangelist."

Blessed is that people whose pastor leads them out . . . to higher heights, to deeper joys, to greater consecration, and to larger Kingdom service . . .

At the season of the Birthday of the King and at the time when even the calendar testifies to our Lord, His power, His glory, and His ability to give new life and to make all things anew.

May high purposes and holy ambitions be those of the pastor-shepherd as he reads this issue of SHEPHERDS, and may God's love be with him all the while as he endeavers to lead his people into the joys and peace of the Christ-Child who became, and is now, the Savior of the world.

How fitting it is that the Silent Night and the Holy Day are followed so closely by Watch Night, and that New Year's Eve is so closely followed by Covenant Sunday. Surely they belong together, and each has a message for the others. SHEPHERDS from cover to cover would tell you this, and even speak to you in the enclosures.

We would see Jesus . . .
Still as of old He calleth,"Follow Me";
Let us arise . . .
Lord, we are Thine, we give ourselves to Thee.
—*J. Edgar Park,* (c) Congregational Publishing Society.

O Heart of God incarnate,
Love-bearer to mankind!
From Thee we learn what love is,
In Thee love's ways we find. . . .

God's will to earth Thou bringest
That all who would obey,
May learn from Thee their duty,
The truth, the life, the way.
—*Wilbur Fisk Tillett*
(c) *Methodist Hymnal,* 117.

SHEPHERDS

December, 1948

Vol. 3—No. 3

SHEPHERDS Magazine is issued monthly as a service of the General Board of Evangelism to the pastors and district superintendents of The Methodist Church. Orders for additional copies of a single issue will be filled for ten cents a copy, as long as the supply lasts. Laymen, churches, and ministers of other denominations may enter yearly subscriptions for $1.50 each. Methodist pastors and superintendents need not report their change of address.

Copyright, 1948, by the General Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church. Printed in U. S. A.

GEORGE HAWKINS JONES, *Editor*

TIDINGS
General Board of Evangelism
The Methodist Church
1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tennessee

The Evangelistic Opportunity of the Christmas Season

by George W. Cooke
West Avenue Methodist Church
Rochester, New York

Too long the Church has missed the true significance of Christmas. Business tycoons and shrewd propagandists have united to make Christmas a colossal commercial event. Dubious movements have capitalized the Christmas spirit for the raising of large sums of money neutralizing the deep meaning of Christmas, if not to destroy it altogether. Cheap chicanery can never be an excuse for the destruction of holy tradition.

The Christian doctrine of the Incarnation is the root-story of Christmas. The birth of the Christ-child means "the Word was made flesh." His coming was for one supreme purpose—"to save his people from their sins." The prophetic announcement, they "shall call his name Emmanuel," brought new hope to a distressed humanity. The interpretation "God with us" brought a new conception of life to an oppressed world.

From the birth of Jesus three historical facts remain: (1) History was split in twain; (2) Humanity found a new birth of freedom; (3) An unquenchable hope for uttermost salvation was fired in the hearts of men. It was the Advent of the world's Redeemer. What a day is Christmas!

The first Christmas gave birth to the Christian conception of salvation and the undying hope of eternal life. Before the Advent of Christ salvation was anticipatory. After the birth of Christ this NEW LIFE was and is experiential. The doctrine of the Incarnation is the very core of evangelism.

The late Dr. Henry Jowett stated: "A revival in the Church is the providence of God while evangelism is the continuing work of the Church." It is imperative then that out of God's provision in the gift of the Christ-child that the Church shall see her continuing responsibility for the building up of the Body of Christ. This is more than idealistic. It must be wonderfully realistic! We cannot be unmindful of Christ's death and resurrection, but these would be impossible without the Christian doctrine of the Incarnation. Taken together these three constitute the very heart of Christianity.

Christmas (Christ-mass) is fundamentally a festival of the early Church, to be celebrated by a particular Church service, to adore the Christ-child and forever remember the Advent of the world's Redeemer. Protestantism has in a very marked degree come to see the evangelistic opportunity in a *Christmas-Eve worship service* in the sanctuary. Nothing could be nearer the fact of Christmas than this evangelistic opportunity.

Indeed, Christmastide is that *whole period from Christmas Eve to Epiphany,* the Festival of Lights. The appearance of Christ to the Magi, the twelfth day after Christmas, is an historical event that ought to be translated into the program and life of the Church, until our whole membership shall come to know Christ as the Light of lights. January 6 can be a memorable day in every Christian's life.

The whole Christmastide period is replete with doctrinal message, the choicest Christian music, and an intent sacrificial spirit. Don't object by saying "We would be aping the Roman Catholics." The fact is that the Protestant Church has too long neglected the holy significance of the Christian festivals. Here are possibilities for noble and modern interpretations of Christian doctrines and facts that could be the means of bringing thousands and thousands to Christ and the Church, as well as undreamed enrichment to our Christmastide worship.

With our larger and wiser experience in visitation evangelism and the Church's keener sense of evangelistic responsibility for the moral and social ills of our day, it is imperative that we seize upon every lovely thing that belongs to the Church, and translate every significant lesson into life and service. This is the New Testament Church technique of evangelism. If anything is progressive it must be the evangelism of Jesus.

The pagan customs that today surround Christmastide can only be frustrated by the infusion of the highest and noblest doctrines and teachings of the Christian Church. The cheap tawdry, the pagan frolics, the superficial drinking parties, and the chicanery of the propagandists have held sway too long at this holy festive time. *Here is evangelistic opportunity* in education and the ingathering of the people to Christ and His Church when men and women and children are tender and ready for the angelic message, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

A well planned program of visitation evangelism, the preaching of the Christmas doctrine of the Incarnation, the spiritual singing of the most popular of all hymns (the Christmas carols), and a climax in Christian decision and Church membership on Christmas morning, could mean one of the greatest blessings that Protestant Christianity has known.

The Pastor and the Church MAKE USE OF *CHRISTMAS*

by Joseph Owen
Pastor, St. Mark Methodist Church
Atlanta, Georgia

Every season furnishes an evangelistic opportunity. Some give larger promise as a time for an intensive, cooperative program than do others. Christmas, as it seems to me, is a time specially conducive to the creation of an atmosphere friendly to evangelistic appeal and effort.

Christmas is a very happy season for most people. Hours are lenghtened for stores and shops, packages for mailing fill post offices, and travel conveyances are crowded. In fact, the rank and file of people are so engaged and engrossed in temporal affairs that it is difficult to enlist large numbers in any sort of cooperative effort in the Church. Even so, there are ways in which the significance, as well as the approach of Christmas, can be effectively brought to the attention of people, young and mature.

The minister can preach toward Christmas. He can catch up into his emphasis something of the hope and expectation which belonged to the prophets as they longed for a coming One and a better day. Or, anticipating special emphasis on Christ's coming as a divine invasion of human life, he can discuss the needs of the world into which Christ came and some of the accompaniments of the Manger birth and thus give accent to the central event itself.

The literature of the church school usually prepares those who give careful study to it for a deepened appreciation of Christmas. Pastors and church school leaders can assist this emphasis by encouraging programs of giving prompted by the self-giving of the Christ. I know a teacher of beginners who always has a Christmas program in which the little folks give gifts rather than receive them. They enjoy the program and I am sure they come to a better understanding of God's supreme gift to the world along that way.

It has seemed helpful to me to get *the Gospel accounts of the birth of the Christ,* the shepherds' journey "even to Bethlehem" and the visit of the Wise Men before groups meeting in midweek services and especially before youth groups. Pictures will aid a program of that sort. I have also seen fine results by urging the adults to read daily, during the week preceding Christmas, the prologue to John's Gospel.

It has been a habit with me to *anticipate Christmas by the use of the great Christmas hymns.* It is not necessary to wait till the "Silent night, holy night" is upon us to sing about it. As is true of Easter hymns and anthems, perhaps the great Christmas music ought to be sung during all the seasons of the year.

Most pastors, I presume, have had parents come to them with the problem of the traditional "Santa Claus." With a "Santa" in one store after another, with two or three on the streets at the same time, noticing that some are tall and some low in stature, some stout and some thin, a good many children are coming to feel that there is something wrong with the whole "Santa Claus" idea. Without entering the ranks of reformers in such matters, a minister may urge upon the mothers and fathers of the church that they should major in telling the story of the Christ child. It is a good time for such an exhortation. I know of a little girl of very tender years who was much impressed with the story. Her father had been away for more than two years in overseas military service and she seemed deeply touched that there was no room—no home as she understood it—for Christ in the inn. *We may legitimately urge that the Christ of Christmas be put at the center of our Christmas thinking.*

My own heart has been stirred by the wide acclaim that has been given to *the Christmas story by radio* in recent years. Sometimes the "air" seems literally filled with "Noels," the "Little Town of Bethlehem," the "Hallelujah Chorus," and the rest. It is a great time for the preacher to tenderly repeat the words of tiny Tim: "God bless us every one."

It is a good time, too, to *talk about "Christmas in God's calendar,"* when, after the preparation of centuries, God sent His own Son into the world. The minister shall find a thousand supporting influences when he stands up to proclaim Christ as "Emmanuel—God With Us," and as "Savior" and "Lord."

Picture of one of the scenes in the Christmas pageant at the Methodist church, Garnerville, New York, Otis Moore, pastor. The script was the scriptural story woven together by the young people of the church, and the young people and young adults produced the pageant themselves.

AT CHRISTMAS TIME
Hearts Are Warmer---More Responsive

by Howard P. Powell
Pastor, Edenton Street Methodist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina

Very few of us have made the best out of the sacred seasons of the year in planning for evangelism in our churches. Thousands of our people feel that they can be respectable members of our churches with only an annual gesture in the direction of God expressed in a sort of "religious spasm" during one of the forty days of Lent. It could be that some of us preachers are responsible for such an attitude, since it is only at that season of the year that we make our effort to present the Christian way of life and one's responsibility to the church.

This year, let's add at least one more opportuinty by using the high sentiments of the Christmas season. There are some hearts that are warmer and more responsive at Christmas than at any other time. Why not take advantage of this in behalf of the family, the home, and the church?

Just before Christmas recently it was brought to the attention of the writer that a boy about eight years of age had been enrolled in the church school, but no record could be found of any interest on the part of his parents beyond the fact that their only child was in church school. Here was an opportunity not to be overlooked at the time when that boy's parents were planning to make Christmas a real experience in his life. With a good layman to help, we called at this home. We found the father a very handsome young businessman, prominent in one of the banks of the city; the mother was very attractive and genuinely courteous. It was apparent, however, that the father was an indifferent Methodist with his membership in a small town some distance away. The mother was a member of another communion, but was willing to bring her membership into The Methodist Church where the boy was in church school. We made friends with the boy, congratulated him upon his school drawings and other work. This pleased the father, but did not inspire his commitment.

Finally, while the boy was in his own room for a few minutes, I asked the parents, "Do you not think you had better get together in church and Sunday school before this boy starts asking questions about why you do not attend?"

The mother smiled and blushed as she answered, "He has already been asking questions. A few Sundays ago he was not feeling well and suggested that he not go to Sunday school. I said to him, 'What do you suppose Jesus will think, if you don't go to Sunday school?' To this he replied, 'I have just been wondering what he has been thinking about you and daddy!' "

We gave a brief moment of time for that point to penetrate before asking the father, "Don't you think you had better cooperate with your wife and the boy and bring your membership here in the neighborhood where you live?"

Without hesitation he said, "Yes, I do, and you may have it done."

With the help of a good layman this writer expects to bring into the membership of the church not less than twenty-five new members on, or before, the Sunday before Christmas.

One case which we have in mind is typical. In this family there are four: the father, a son and daughter, and a stepmother. The daughter, the older of the two children, is the only member of the church. The father was impressed with the interest the church showed in his daughter as she left recently for college. My lay helper and I are going to suggest to the father and son how much it will help the girl who made a home for them following her mother's death to have them and her stepmother with her in the church, and that an ideal time would be when she is at home for Christmas. The stepmother has agreed to cooperate by bringing her membership from another church. The father and son have never made their decision, but we believe they will.

Most any pastor who makes an effort to know his people in their homes will find such opportunities and he will find the people interested.

J. Manning Potts

Editor of The Upper Room

has written a very human, simple, and interesting leaflet for pastors and churches to distribute in every home early in the Christmas season.

"How Shall I Spend Christmas?"

Printed in three colors

$2.00 per 100

This little leaflet will have an entreé into the hearts and lives of many people, including young people and children, that longer and more elaborate dissertations cannot have.

Order now—Distribute early

1908 Grand Avenue, TIDINGS, Nashville 4, Tennessee

SEE YOU IN CHURCH SUNDAY!

"See You in Church Sunday" is more than a promise for Rally Day. It is the slogan of a community-wide attendance campaign with all our church making every effort to reach every possible person during the month of October. Our approach in the Methodist church is that everyone will greet at least ten people every day by saying, "See You in Church Sunday." After you have completed your conversation with people, your parting remark is to be, "See You in Church Sunday." No matter who you are speaking to, the meaning is the same. If that person is of some other faith, you mean simply that you want to see that person go to his respective church Sunday.

Let us put the church in our daily conversation. We become more interested in things as we talk about them. So talk church to your family, your friends and neighbors—then attend church on Sunday and urge everyone you see to attend their church too. *SEE YOU IN CHURCH SUNDAY!*

—The Scottsdale (Arizona) *Methodist Circuit Rider,* Leslie J. Ross, pastor.

"But We Can Be Re-born"

It is futile to hope for the salvation of society by the mere magic of changing the economy. No social system will work any better than this present one without the moral transformation of many lives. Change the character of the men who control and of those who support the system, and you change the effect of the system upon the masses who are a part of it. A better world can be created only by better men. Let not the church be deceived by the popular, persistent effort to circumvent this truth. We cannot legislate ourselves into the millennium, but we can be re-born from within. There is no shortcut to the good society. The personal gospel is the social gospel, and any social gospel which does not persistently aim at the transformation of persons is not a Christian gospel.

—Report, Oregon Conference Board of Evangelism.

Soul Winning

Brainerd said: "I care not how or where I live, or what hardships I go through, so that I can but gain souls to Christ."

Matthew Henry wrote: "I would think it a greater happiness to gain one soul to Christ than mountains of silver and gold to myself."

Fletcher of Madeley said to Samuel Bradburn: "If you should live to preach the gospel forty years, and be the instrument of saving only one soul, it will be worth all your labors."

Said Spurgeon: "Husbandman, your Great Employer sent you out to sow the seed, but if no grain of it would ever come up, if you sowed the seed as He told you, and where He told you, He will never lay the blame of a defective harvest on you."

For Those Past 50

I would like to read, "The Drillmaster of Methodism" written by Chas. L. Goodell in 1902. If you have a copy of this book in your library please send me a postal card. I will buy or borrow this book. I am anxious to read it.

Please do not send the book, but please send me a card.

Thank you. —Harry Denman

A Conference Board Says

We believe every Methodist family, as Bishop Selecman says, "desires a concise account of the story of his church." We recommend that the membership of the church have a basic knowledge of the history, doctrines, organization, and activities of The Methodist Church." To achieve this goal classes should be established in every church for the purpose of studying *The Methodist Primer,* by Bishop Charles C. Selecman.

Second, the Parish Cultivation Plan of the use of *The Upper Room* should be promoted in every church. We believe this to be the most efficient method yet discovered to keep in touch with the whole church. Not only may *The Upper Room* booklet be mailed but a church news letter and other current information may be mailed with it.

Third, we need to regain the family life of The Methodist Church and worship again as families. Says Bishop Brashares, "If we do not get the parents, we lose the children. We keep ninety percent of the children when we get the parents. Our losses have been constant for over fifty years."

—North Dakota Conference Board of Evangelism

RIP VAN WINKLE

Recently we ran across a modern version of the old story. Rip fell asleep and slept for many years. It was Sunday morning when he awoke. Soon he found himself on a hard, smooth road with a white stripe down the middle.

While still wondering what the white stripe might mean, he heard a raucous noise behind him. He leaped out of the way just in time to let a strange contraption go by at incredible speed. He fled into a neighboring field. Here he felt secure until a similar contraption came along, plowing up twelve furrows at a time.

He fled into a meadow where he watched a flock of grazing sheep. But soon his composure was rudely shaken by a large mechanical bird which swooped down behind him. More terrified than before, he fled the scene as fast as his sleep-weary legs would carry him.

Pausing to catch his breath, he heard the ringing of a church bell. It was a familiar sound. Hastening toward the church, he entered. A service was in progress. Now he felt safe and at home. Nothing was changed: the same torn hymnals, the same unpainted walls, almost the same spider webs under the balcony stairs—all were there just as they had always been.

Old Rip hurried from the building, fearing that, if he remained, he might fall into another nap of many, many years.

—From *Today.*

Christmas Candlelight Service

A Suggested Service for Christmas Eve

submitted by
Wayne Furman, Pastor
Warren, Pennsylvania

Prelude—"Christmas Carol Rhapsody" *Matheson*

I. "FOR BEHOLD, THE DARKNESS SHALL COVER THE EARTH"

1. Comfort Ye My People ..... Handel
2. Prophecy—Isaiah 2:2-4
3. O Come, O Come, Immanuel—Hymn No. 83

II. "BUT THE LORD SHALL ARISE UPON THEE AND HIS GLORY SHALL BE SEEN UPON THEE"

1. The Annunciation—Luke 1:26-33
2. The Magnificat—Hymnal 632
3. The Lowly Birth—Luke 2:1-7

III. "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

1. Silent Night
2. The Light of Men—John 1:4-9
3. The Lighting of the Candles
4. The First Noel—Hymn No. 97 (Congregation and Choir)
5. They Have Seen a Great Light—Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

IV. "MARY AND JOSEPH"

1. Luther's Cradle Song
2. What Child is This—No. 109
3. There's a Song in the Air!—No. 98

V. "AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS"

1. The Shepherds—Luke 2:8-14
2. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
3. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
4. Let Us Now Go—Luke 2:15-16
5. While Shepherds Watched—Hymn No. 88 (Congregation and Choir)

VI. WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST

1. They See the Star—Matthew 2:1-3, 9-11
2. We Three Kings of Orient Are—Hymn No. 102
3. As Lately We Watched ..... *Scholin*

VII. LET US GO UNTO BETHLEHEM

1. Many Nations Shall Come—Micah 4:1-3
2. O Little Town of Bethlehem ..... *Reader*
3. Processional—O Come, All Ye Faithful—Hymn No. 96 (Congregation and Choir)
4. Fairest Lord Jesus
5. Gloria In Excelsis—No. 588
6. Silent Night

VIII. THEY PRESENTED UNTO HIM GIFTS

1. Period of Meditation and Prayer
2. Presentation of Gifts
3. Gloria In Excelsis ..... *Mozart*
4. Joy to the World!—Hymn No. 89 (Congregation and Choir)
5. The Heavens Are Telling ..... *Handel*
6. Benediction
7. Christmas Bells ..... *Chimes or Church Bells*

DETAILS OF THE SERVICE

Candles should be placed on the altar, the window ledges, and at other suitable positions about the nave of the church. If the church has a center aisle, candlesticks can be fixed on the ends of the pews so as to light "The Way." At ten-thirty all lights may be turned on and the prelude may start at ten-forty-five. The choir should be seated in the balcony with flashlights, as all lights should be turned out when the program actually starts.

I

1. Solo.
2. Reader with strong clear voice, from some concealed position.
3. Full choir.

II

1 and 3. Reader.
2. Soprano Solo (Hymnal).

III

1. Solo. Small child dressed in white carrying a lighted candle.
2. Reader.
3. This should be done by two boys about twelve years of age dressed in white robes. They should first light the candles on the altar, then all others with proper form and due solemnity. A violin may play "Silent Night" from some unseen position until at least half the candles are lighted.
4. Full choir.
5. The Voice.

IV

Mary and Joseph with the manger cradle may be shown here. If the Nativity scene is portrayed in tableaux the actors should hold their positions until the close of the service. A spotlight should be thrown upon them.

1. Soprano solo.
2. Duet.
3. Full chorus.

V

1. Reader.
2. Ladies' Voices.
3. Full Chorus. Here Shepherds in costume may start down the aisle with solemn step and take their places to the left of the Cradle.
4. Reader.
5. Full Chorus and Congregation.

VI

1. Reader.
2. Three Wise Men in regal costume may come down the aisle singing this number then, having knelt, each may offer his gift as he sings the appropriate verse of this song, then take positions at right of Cradle.
3. Choir.

VII

1. Reader. The Choir should come down from the balcony. Each member should light his candle from the person ahead.
2. Reader.
3. Full Choir—each member carrying a lighted candle.
4. Solo or Duet. Choir should kneel at chancel.
5. Choir. Lighted candles may be placed on Communion cup racks or chancel railing.
6. Choir reverently humming as they take place in choir loft.

VIII

1. Directed by the Pastor.
2. The ushers should direct the congregation to the chancel where the people will kneel or stand in a moment of silent prayer before making their offering. The organ may play softly hymns of consecration as is done in Holy Communion. A lighted candle may be given to each worshiper as he takes his seat.
3. Choir.
4. Congregation and Choir.

THOUGHTS FOR

Bulletins---Letters---Sermons

by Charles Drake Skinner
St. James Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois

Editor's Note: We give on this page some of the materials prepared by Dr. Charles Drake Skinner, minister for the Crusade for Christ at St. James Church and used with good effect in the church bulletins during a former Christmas season. They are worthy of being passed on.

"Will You Remember God at Christmas?" was the slogan that was used on each piece of literature the church sent out and on each weekly bulletin.

Have You Remembered God?

The Christmas season is a time of remembrances. We have a custom of remembering loved ones and friends with gifts at this time, as we recall the first and best Christmas gift to men.

When making up our list of people to be remembered we find ourselves asking the question: "Have I forgotten anyone?" May I ask you reverently this Christmastime: "Have you remembered God?" He is your Heavenly Father and the "Giver of every good and perfect gift." Surely you will not forget Him. What shall you give Him? Have you given Him your heart? What more beautiful gift could one bring than one's own self on Christmas Day? Let me suggest that you give your heart to Him and confess Him in His church today.

When Jesus came to earth to bring the richness of God's love to men, there was found no place for Him in the inn, and His first home was a manger.

"Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O, come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room
In my heart for Thee."

Will you not give Him a place this Christmastime?

Exchanging Christmas Gifts With God

When our Heavenly Father on that first Christmas sent His Son into the world to nestle in a mother's arms as a little babe, He made a holy gift to you. Forever after the most beautiful picture in all the world is a mother and a child.

If there is a little child in your home, it would be a sacred act on your part to make a gift to God on Christmas Sunday by dedicating your child to Him in Holy Baptism.

The Miracle of Christmas

On Christmas Eve the Christ-child will again walk over the world. Children feel His presence keenly, and they will place candles in the windows throughout the world to light His way and invite His blessing. Perhaps the spiritual thrill of Christmas is felt most on Christmas Eve. It is the hush that fell over the shepherds, the holy silence of the angels before their song. When Christmas comes a miracle happens. The world forgets its sordidness. It is

changed for the day. The very atmosphere is charged with gladness and good will. When Christmas comes it speaks to the deepest and best in man and tells the wondrous love of God.

No wonder a miracle has happened. No wonder we find gladness, good cheer, and happiness. Our hearts are now ready to hear the angelic song of the heavenly host: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." May our spirits be changed by the miracle of Christmas and may our hearts be open to hear the angels sing.

What Does Christmas Mean?

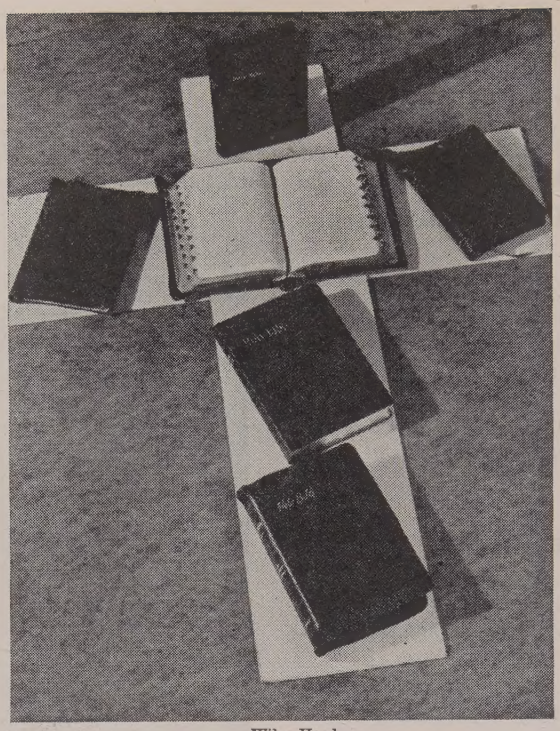
Christmas means God and Heaven and Angels are close to men. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Man is a creature of two worlds. He begins in a material world as a creature of the earth. Soon he makes life's most important discovery: the spiritual world—the unseen world of truth and goodness, of beauty and love. Man has not begun to live until he makes contact with his true spiritual environment, God, and begins to live the life of truth and love.

In Jesus Christ we see most completely the ideal life, for here we see the divine and the human in harmony and perfection. He taught man that the universe is not some blind mechanism for which his life has no value, but behind all is a loving God to whom he can look up and call "Father." Blessed, indeed, is he who by faith can see the heavenly host and hear the songs of the angels.

World-Wide Bible Reading

Thanksgiving to Christmas



Wiles-Hopd

Universal Bible Sunday

December 12, 1948

The Bible Is a Read Book

Seeing an unused Bible lying about in his home, a small boy asked his mother whose book it was. "It is God's Book," she is reported to have said. "Well," replied the boy, "don't you think we should return it? Nobody seems to read it!"

Stories like the above do not apply to all the homes of America, according to Dr. Frederick Cropp, secretary of the American Bible Society, who has spent a considerable amount of time investigating just this situation. "People are wrong who say that while the Bible may be the world's best seller, it is the least read book and the book that nobody knows," continued Dr. Cropp.

The use of helps for reading the Bible and lists of suggested Scripture passages is way above pre-war years as indicated by the figures of religious publishing houses. "The Bible Society alone," declared Dr. Cropp, "distributed last year on request more than 15,000,000 copies of the bookmark containing a list of readings for the World-wide Bible Reading between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition the list was reprinted more than 20,000,000 times. An even larger response is expected this year in observance of the program, which has as its theme, 'The Book of All Nations.' One million copies of a reading list, made up of passages to be read daily throughout the year were circulated also by the Bible Society."

Commercial and religious publishing houses continually bring out "new" Bibles, new in the sense they contain outlines, explanations and many references to help the reader in understanding obscure and difficult passages. The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament, a version in the plain and direct language of today, held its place in the list of religious best sellers for many months, following its publication in 1946. The Bible, that used to appear in nothing but a sombre binding of black, can now be found in attractive, colored bindings, appealing to the eye in format and readability of type.

Uncounted millions of Americans listen every Sunday in their churches to ministers reading from the Scriptures. One of the most popular radio programs of its class, according to a Hooper rating, is the half-hour broadcast on Sunday evening of "The Greatest Story Ever Told," based entirely on incidents taken from the Bible. This program came on the air for its third year on September 12. It is short-waved throughout the world, over the World Radio University of Boston through its three outlets.

Wise pastors make large use of Universal Bible Sunday and lift up the reading of the Scriptures and family worship at every possible opportunity.

November *Shepherds* contains an article on the World-wide Bible-Reading Campaign and a list of the Thanksgiving to Christmas recommended passages.

The Covenant Card for Covenant Sunday exalts Bible reading, individual and family worship, and encourages the practice of a daily quiet time that one might learn to "practice the presence of God." Order the covenant card early and get it ahead of the heavy Christmas mails.

At the last annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbi Uri Miller of Baltimore, Maryland, spoke for his colleagues when he said that "the Bible is our greatest source of prestige. We must continue to be a Bible-loving and Bible-studying people."

At a recent solemn mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, one of the Catholic staff called upon all followers of Christ "to read and know the Scriptures better than we know any book written by any human being." The recently formed Spanish Biblical Society has reported in that country greater interest among people in the reading and studying of the Bible. To help in this, the Spanish Society has distributed thousands of copies of the Scriptures. Distribution of Protestant Scriptures is now allowed in Spain in English, French and German.

This phenomenon of increased reading of the Bible is not confined to our own land. A recent visitor to Japan has reported seeing the Japanese reading copies of the New Testament on park benches and while riding in buses and trains. The Student Christian Association there operates makeshift sidewalk Bible stalls in Tokyo where the passer-by may secure a copy of the Scriptures, so great has been the demand for the books.

Young people by the hundreds, in and about Tokyo, meet weekly for study of the Bible, according to information received by the American Bible Society from the Bible Society in Japan. About 120 city and student YMCA groups are currently meeting in Japan also, reports K. Nagamatsu, who serves as director of a YMCA "Read-the-Bible" Movement which got under way 15 months ago, according to *Religious News*. Nagamatsu said many of the groups hold their meetings in factories during lunch hours. The American Bible Society has not been able to fill the calls for Scripture from Japan, although it has supplied 2,775,345 copies from July 1, 1945, to the end of June, 1948. Scripture publication is now possible in Japan and the Bible Society has furnished, in addition to the actual books, 105 tons of Bible paper and has been asked to secure 230 additional tons for editions of Japanese Scriptures.

In Edinburgh, it is learned, a six-year schedule is being launched in Scottish schools which will insure that every boy and girl will receive Scripture training "on a par with mathematics and languages," and "know the Bible as well as their grandfathers."

". . . from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

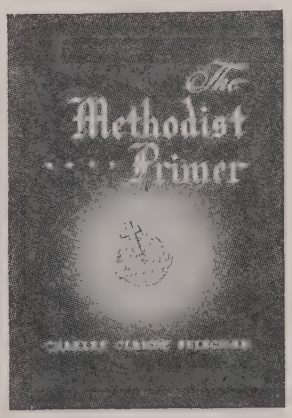
Shipping Filipino Scriptures from the bomb-damaged but still-used Bible House of the American Bible Society in Manila (1948).

A Christmas Present
from the Church to Every Home

Get your Official Board to give this appreciated book.

It will pay the church to do so.

25c each
25 for $5.00



Order from your nearest Methodist Publishing House

This TIDINGS publication is stocked by all branches of the Publishing House

FROM A CHURCH BULLETIN

Would you like to know a little bit more about your church? Have you a few minutes to spend each day for this purpose? Then you could not do better than invest 25 cents in the purchase of *The Methodist Primer,* a little volume by Bishop Charles C. Selecman, of Dallas, Texas. It was first published four years ago but has been recently revised in keeping with the new happenings in our church.

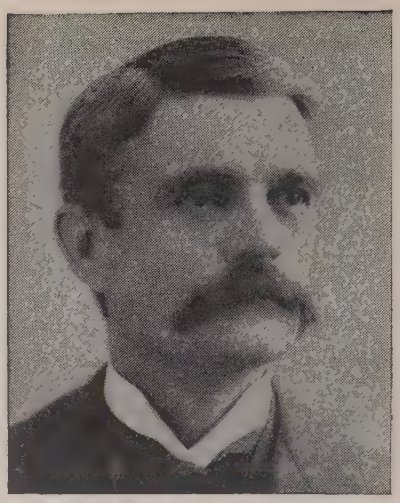
Of all church people Methodists are the least acquainted with the peculiar doctrines of their denomination. They have not claimed their church as *the* church, and their attitude toward other churches has been that of "live and let live." Any believer in Christ is welcome into the Methodist fold if he appears sincere; he must be willing to declare himself publicly and be baptized by any one of the three Scriptural modes—sprinkling, pouring, immersion. Wesley's rule for admission into the United Society (which was the early form of his church organization) was "a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from sin."

Bishop Selecman's volume treats first of history. John Wesley's tribute to his mother is the first thing that the reader sees as he opens the front cover. This alone is worth the price of the entire book. The beginnings of the great religious awakening that became The Methodist Church takes up the first 24 pages. Then comes 11 pages of doctrine, 6 pages of which are devoted to 14 prominent doctrines of Methodism, which it would be well for every Methodist to memorize. After this come 9 pages devoted to government (organization), 12 pages to Methodist fields of service, and the last 4 pages to the ritual of baptism and reception into the church.

One would not expect many illustrations in such a work, but the four full-page cuts (one each of John Wesley, Francis Asbury, consecration of Asbury as Bishop, and an early General Conference) are exceptionally well done. If you are interested in becoming a better Methodist and would like one of these books, leave your name with the church secretary.

—Bulletin, Inglewood Methodist Church, Nashville Tennessee,
E. C. Shelton, pastor.

Without our knowledge the above appeared in a church bulletin. Churches will do well to place THE METHODIST PRIMER in every home.



Sam P. Jones
Peerless Evangelist

Biography Available of SAM JONES

by Walt Holcomb

Last year at this time The Methodist Publishing House issued *Sam Jones* a biography, by Walt Holcomb, his son-in-law and fellow-traveler, but so great was the demand that the edition was exhausted.

A new printing of this book has recently been made (slightly enlarged edition) and is now available from any bookstore of the Publishing House ($2.00; Deluxe edition, $5.00).

People desire to know how Sam Jones drew such crowds, swayed them for righteousness, and today (42 years after his death) still lives in the hearts and memories of all those who heard him. This book tells you, and gives a running account of his life, a sample of his sermons, several of his stories, a sketch of his personality and some of his fearless fights for righteousness.

Many pastors have ordered five or more copies and sold them to their congregations on the first mention of them. King Vivion, McKendree, Nashville pastor, keeps copies in his literature rack and has sold 40.

The famous Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn., where "The Grand Ole Opry" of radio fame originates, was built for Sam Jones by a liquor dealer who was converted at one of his meetings. Sam Jones used completely to fill this great auditorium with its two large balconies and would have people literally hanging off the rafters and sitting all over the stage at his feet.

Dr. Walt Holcomb recently preached in a one-day revival at this auditorium on Sunday afternoon, October 17, in commemoration of the 101st anniversary of Sam Jones' birth. Morning and evening services were held at McKendree Church.

SPECIAL: If you want autographed copies of this volume, order five or more on consignment directly from Dr. Walt Holcomb, 80 Park Lane, N. E., Atlanta, Ga., rather than from your nearest Publishing House.

Bernie H. Hampton

A CULTIVATION PLAN That Cultivates

The Upper Room Cultivation Plan is proving to be a real ministry to our people. Over and over people are saying, "I appreciate *The Upper Room* that you sent me," and other like expressions of appreciation.

Our mailing list includes our best prospects. They get a most favorable impression of the church from such publications as *The Upper Room.*

I keep my people informed of church activities by inserting a pastoral letter in nearly all mailings.

I would not want to be without the regular ministry of *The Upper Room* to the homes of my people.

Last issue I increased my order for *Upper Rooms,* but you did not increase envelop order, and I was short on envelopes. Please make future order:

350 Upper Rooms
350 mailing envelopes
300 collection envelopes (I do not put these in prospect mailing)

I have a Sunday School Class that wants to put *The Upper Room* in the lobby of our big city hospital—for this we need a nice display rack with a collection box for coin. If you can help us with this arrangement, we can extend the ministry of *The Upper Room.*

Very sincerely,

—*Bernie H. Hampton,* Pastor Ridgedale Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Monthly Parish Paper

I have an idea about *The Upper Room* circulation which might be interesting to small churches. I have just begun a monthly parish newspaper as well as the Parish Cultivation Plan in my charge.

When planning the size of my newspaper, I found that an 8½ x 14 inch sheet of mimeograph paper, folded once each direction, almost exactly equals the size of *The Upper Room.* So, by cutting my stencils to print that size, I make my newspaper that way, and then I am able to mail it in the same envelope. . . .

—*Donald L. Francis,* Pastor, First Methodist Church, Oakfield, Wisconsin

A Credit Card

While shopping I made a purchase that involved a sum larger than I could pay at one time, and I needed some identification to establish my credit. The credit manager watched me as I searched through my handbag. I was almost in despair when he said, "I believe I see a copy of *The Upper Room.* I handed him the booklet; I always have one of the pocket edition in my bag.

He handed it back to me with these words, "That is identification enough."

—*From a letter from a lady.*

Increase Church Attendance

Prior to the last issue of *The Upper Room* we were selling from 65 to 75 copies of each issue. Then I decided to try the Parish Cultivation Plan. I made a mailing list of 75 persons, increased it to 100, and then decided that it should be increased to 125 persons.

The response has been fine. I hope to increase the list until it reaches 200 or more. An envelope and a personal letter is enclosed in each *Upper Room.*

More people are now reading *The Upper Room* and I have an opportunity to enclose my own personal letter. I believe that it will also increase church attendance.

—*Lawrence A. Watts,* Pastor, Nashville, N. C.

Lawrence A. Watts

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

I am the Christmas spirit!

I enter the home of poverty, cause palefaced children to open their eyes wide, in pleased wonder.

I cause the miser's clutched hand to relax, and thus paint a bright spot on his soul.

I cause the aged to renew their youth and to laugh in the old, glad way.

I keep romance alive in the heart of childhood, and brighten sleep with dreams woven of magic.

I cause eager feet to climb dark stairways with filled baskets, leaving behind hearts amazed at the goodness of the world.

I cause the prodigal to pause a moment on his wild, wasteful way, and send to anxious love some little token that releases glad tears—tears which wash away the hard lines of sorrow.

I enter dark prison cells, reminding scarred manhood of what might have been, and pointing forward to good days yet to be.

I come softly into the still, white home of pain, and lips that are too weak to speak just tremble in silent, eloquent gratitude.

In a thousand ways I cause the weary world to look up into the face of God, and for a little moment forget the things that are small and wretched.

I am the Christmas spirit!

—*E. C. Baird.*

NOTES OF INTEREST

Losing Their Baby

I am writing to tell you that I think *The Upper Room* is the most helpful and easily used of any of the daily devotionals I know. For that reason I send it to each of the girls living in the Central Y.W.C.A. residence, the girls in McGannon Hall, the Y. board and staff, and to my College Class at the First Presbyterian Church.

There are times when a very real need may be filled by this little booklet. May I cite one such case?

During one of my periods of Nurse Aid duty at a local hospital, I noticed a young mother and father who had been almost constantly at the hospital for a week watching their baby slipping slowly away. Their hopelessness and dejected attitude as they stood outside the glass watching, as I tended the baby, made me conscious of the help I had in my pocket; so after speaking to them several times in passing, I took *The Upper Room* out of my pocket. As I handed it to them I said, "Your hearts must be heavy, and you cannot understand why this sorrow has come. Many people have found comfort and blessing in using these daily readings together. Wouldn't you like to have this help?" They looked surprised as I rushed off to my next assignment, but later when I passed the waiting room I saw them sitting close together "In the Upper Room," or so it seemed, for the anxiety was no longer evident and they had read far past "the daily reading."

—*A prominent woman in a southern city.*

Tuesday Morning

Dear Helen:

Your thoughtful note of thanks for The Upper Room pleased me very much. You will be interested to know that I have given away dozens of copies of The Upper Room and a number of subscriptions. Nothing I do gives me greater pleasure or seems to be more appreciated.

Several years ago I discovered that I could start every day right if I started it with The Upper Room. The wonderful thing about it is that the cost is so small that even I can afford to distribute them quite freely.

I gather that your home training was quite like mine and like me you have found it a bit difficult to have family devotions now that you have a home of your own. I know that The Upper Room will help you solve that problem. It really thrills me to know that there are men and women and boys and girls in nearly every land using the same devotions that I use each day.

You certainly won my heart with your letter. If you would like to get some letters like the one you sent me I suggest that you give copies of The Upper Room to some of your friends who are not acquainted with it.

Love,

Carolyn

A Prayer Confession Seldom Heard

Almighty God, as I sit here this lovely Sunday morning, surrounded by the Sunday papers and half-listening to one of the big preachers over the radio, it has just come over me that I have lied to Thee and to myself. I said I did not feel well enough to go to church. That was not true. I was not ambitious enough! I would have gone to my office had it been Monday morning. I would have played golf if it had been Wednesday afternoon. I would have attended my luncheon club if it had met this noon. I would have been able to go to a picture show if it had been Friday night. But it is Sunday morning and Sunday illness covers a multitude of sins. God have mercy on me! I have lied to Thee and to myself. I was not ill . . . I am lazy and indifferent. Amen.

—Bulletin, Bethel Church, Spartanburg, *Wallace Fridy,* Pastor.

U.C.L.A.

Here is a small gift for my graduation. In grateful appreciation for what *The Upper Room* has meant to me through four years of college. May this little bit and the prayers that go with it help someone else to a closer understanding of Christ.

—A U.C.L.A. sticker accompanied this gift to the Chaplains Fund.

Gives Out of Poverty

The 80 copies of *The Upper Room* I get for the General Hospital, Los Angeles, that is 480 every year. And I do not go to church here. Listen to church over the radio. Work very hard through week and doctor told me to rest Sunday all I could. And have not a home nice enough for church people visit me, not the clothes nice enough to attend it.

Praying sometime to move to country where there is a little church where I would feel like going. I do all I can on a small income. The Methodist Church is one to see that everyone receives a copy of *The Upper Room.* One Methodist lady said she thought I was doing good to pay $24.00 a year for the Upper Rooms for Hospital work, as hard as I worked. I am happy to do what I am doing.

My home is poor, but thankful have a roof over my head.

Sincerely,

—*Mrs. H. B.,* California.

From "Candy John"

I enjoy *The Upper Room* and miss it when I do not receive it. It has proved a great blessing to me. May the Lord bless you as you continue your ministry. I was one of those who received *The Upper Room* from Mr. John Kneller, "Candy John."

***—Lieut. Bernice M. Hillpot,* York, Pennsylvania.**

No Summer Slump

In reply to your query as to increased sales of *The Upper Room,* will say I think the increase of 110 is due to close attention in placing copies with those who use more than one copy each time.

One class in Sunday school took up 10, another class dropped 5. The summer slump usually dropped to 90, but we have not dropped this summer. I keep a list of all who take extras and keep up with it.

—*Mrs. J. W. Mann,* First Methodist Church, Stamps, Arkansas.

Baptist Men's Class

It is my opportunity for service to teach a large class of men each Sunday in the Baptist Sunday school—we have an attendance of 75 to 80 men. As an additional service, it has been my custom to mail each member of the class, about 130 men, a copy of *The Upper Room* for several years. Gradually this was extended to many of my friends so that for some time I have been mailing 300 copies each quarter.

—*E. M. Starkey,* Commissioner of Revenue, Buena Vista, Virginia.

Helps Radio Station

It might interest you to know that we use the Bible verse, prayer, and thought-for-the-day each morning as a part of our sign-on.

—*Carl M. Everson,* United Broadcasting Company, Columbus 15, Ohio.

Thank You!

It pays to say "Thank you." These two little words are said none too often. There came to our office recently a single contribution of $1.00 which was attached in addition to the payment of a bill. We wrote the donor this brief message: "Thank you for your contribution of $1.00 to our radio work. This is deeply appreciated and will help to carry on our radio ministry." Immediately we received the same letter back with another dollar attached to it. This "thank you" brought in immediate response. It pays to say "Thank you."

—*Harry L. Williams,* Associate Secretary.

Presbyterian Gift

I give a copy to families when they have their babies baptized—and take to non-church families I am trying to interest.

—*Woodrow Wooley,* Minister, Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, Michigan.

The Assistant Pastor

The Stencil inset is a fine idea and works very well. It makes a clear picture; but more important serves as a reminder to our families that *The Upper Room* can serve them as assistant pastor in their own homes daily.

Enclosed are the bulletins which we shall use at the two churches on our charge this coming Sunday.

—*Charles Cheffey,* Pastor.

Church Bulletin

In accordance with your request, I am sending sample bulletin using your inset. I have used it two Sundays and expect to use it once or twice more. I received several comments on the inset, and sale of *The Upper Room* took an immediate spurt.

—*H. Lewis Hardy,* Pastor, The United Church, Monmouth, Maine.

Catholic in Hospital

One man, who is a very strict Catholic, said to me, "Chaplain, this is a very fine little book that you left for me and I enjoy reading it very much. You have not left me one for some time and I missed it." I then told him that it was only published every two months and he said, "I believe that it was about two months ago that I had one."

Thanks very much, and the men in the hospital enjoy it a great deal.

—*Otho A. Eure,* Chaplain, Veterans Administration Hospital, Ft. Bayard, New Mexico.

NOTES OF INTEREST

A Daily Help

The Upper Room sure went over with a *bang!* The men here at Statesville enjoyed the July-August issue no end. Not until the many requests began pouring in did I realize that as yet we have not received the September-October issue.

The Upper Room is really a daily help to these men. Often in our Bible class someone makes some mention of a passage they have read in *The Upper Room.*

Last issue you were kind enough to send us 150. However, we could use 200 to great advantage.

Thank you again for your kindness and may the Lord bless you in your work. Hoping that I may hear from you in the near future, I remain

—*Albert A. Sorensen,* Protestant Chaplain, Illinois State Penitentiary.

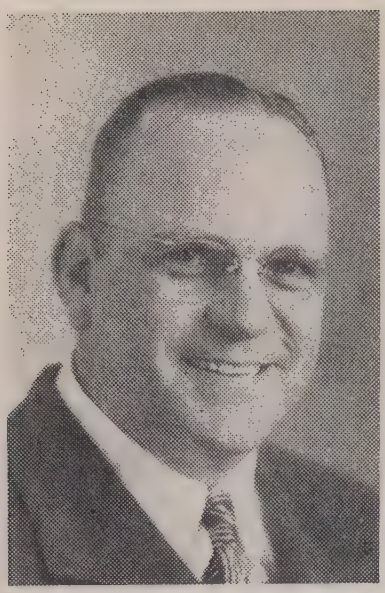
Below is a miniature reproduction of one of the pages of the bulletin of First Methodist Church, Muscatine, Iowa, with three lines underscored. See story on pages 17 and 18.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1948
M O R N I N G W O R S H I P S E R V I C E
...The Hour Ten Forty-Five...

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Vision" Rheinberger
THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP
THE HYMN "O for a thousand tongues to sing" No. 162
THE COMMON PRAYER (the people seated)
Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Thee: have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
THE SILENT MEDITATION
THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE
THE LORD'S PRAYER
THE CHORAL RESPONSE "The Dresden Amen"
THE SOLO "The Lord is my light" Scott
Max Risinger
THE RESPONSIVE READING "Family religion" page 601
THE GLORIA PATRI
THE USE OF THE UPPER ROOM
THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURES
THE ORGAN MEDITATION "I need Thee every hour"
No. 232
THE PASTORAL PRAYER
THE CHORAL RESPONSE "Hear our prayer, O Lord"
THE WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS
The anthem "Thanks be to God" Dickson
Presentation of gifts (the people standing)
"All things come of Thee, O Lord"
THE HYMN "More love to Thee, O Christ" No. 364
THE SERMON "WHAT SHALL WE LEAVE TO OUR CHILDREN?"
Dr. Cooper
THE HYMN "Take time to be holy" No. 251
THE BENEDICTION
THE CHORAL DISMISSAL
THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Grand Choeur" Faulkes

Building a Church

Cost "Plus"



Edwin H. Grant

"The people had a mind to work" writes Edwin H. Grant, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Mt. Carmel, Illinois, in explaining the growth of the church while his people are in the midst of a building program to replace the church home destroyed by fire four years ago. Worshiping in the meantime in the gymnasium of the high school, it soon became evident that the church *needed a coordinating and unifying influence* that would hold the minds and hearts of the people on things eternal. The pastor insists that only one means was at hand! *The Upper Room* and the Parish Cultivation Plan—"It is doing more than we had a right to expect or ask," he says.

Last September Edwin H. Grant, the pastor, transferred to the Southern Illinois Conference from a most happy pastorate in Clovis, New Mexico, as the result of what he felt to be a clear call to return to the area in which he had grown to manhood. Fortunately he followed a man who had done a great work in holding the congregation together under trying conditions. But three years passed since the new foundation had been poured. The people wanted a church home. The Official Board was willing, but a study of the plans revealed many needed changes and some were advocating the building of a church whose cost was beyond the ability of the congregation to pay.

At an early meeting of the Church Trustees, the pastor pointed out that for four years the insurance money and a few additional thousands had been in government bonds while they had a moral responsibility to build a church home for the people. If costs were such that the church could not be built according to previously announced plans, they must still build a church "so that the people called Methodists could have a church home." The trustees voted to start to work, adjust plans, have a financial campaign, and never stop until the project was complete.

The General Board of Missions sent Dr. Frank Inman to lead the campaign for funds. It is the pastor's testimony that this Board has the plans and the men to execute them, which will bring in money and pledges and at the same time promote a spiritual devotion to the church. On Loyalty Sunday the congregation deposited cash and pledges amounting to $71,000 on the altar. The pledges were to be paid over a period of 100 weeks. This gave a total of about $140,000 with which to start. The projected plan had originally called for a $200,000 project.

Superintendents were hired and contracts let on a "cost-plus" basis. The parsonage was very old and in a bad state of repair, and one of the trustees suggested that the parsonage be sold and an apartment be built into the church. This was done and the pastor will be in the apartment by Christmas.

The walls of the church are now going up. There is harmony in the congregation, and so far they have not had to dip into the $65,000 in government bonds, as they have been able out of current gifts to pay for things as they are built. At the same time the pastor's salary has been increased considerably, missionary giving stepped up, and a new attendance record in church school attendance was set in August at a time when most churches do not even apologize for a summer slump.

The pastor is enthusiastic about his church, and rightly so. He sees a great future for it. Part of the plans for the future are built around a wide use of *The Upper Room* and the Parish Cultivation.

"I believe that a great deal of the success of our building program, the fervor that has helped us see men saved and many brought into the church is due to the daily use of *The Upper Room*. The only question I would raise in connection with the whole matter is this: When will our Methodism rise in her full strength to use these small measures for the accomplishing of the greater task"?

Good Preaching!

The fact that present-day preaching is on a high level is amply attested by the examples published in *The Upper Room Pulpit*. Here are sermons by men well known today as well as examples of good preaching by those who have not yet established wide reputations.

The Upper Room Pulpit is a monthly of practical help and inspiration. Subscribe Now.

Subscription rate, $1.50. Foreign $2.00.

THE UPPER ROOM PULPIT

1908 Grand Avenue Nashville 4, Tennessee

DAWSON C. BRYAN

Heads Department of Personal and Visitation Evangelism

The General Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church announces the election of Dr. Dawson C. Bryan of Houston, Texas, as associate secretary in charge of the Department of Personal and Visitation Evangelism, effective immediately.

This is a new Department authorized at the organizational meeting of the General Board for the new quadrennium on July 28, and as the head of this Department Dr. Bryan will be in charge of the promotion of religious surveys, schools of visitation evangelism, the organization of permanent groups of laymen in local churches for visitation evangelism, the training of adults and young people to do personal work, and the organization of new churches by the visitation method.

Dr. Bryan is well-equipped for this work, having received largely by personal work and visitation, more than 3,000 members into St. Paul's Methodist Church at Houston, Texas, during the 11 years of his pastorate there. Moreover, he is the author of two outstanding books in this field: "A Workable Plan of Evangelism" and "A Layman's Handbook of Visitation Evangelism." He issued an earlier volume, entitled "The Art of Illustrating Sermons."

Dawson Charles Bryan

Under his leadership St. Paul's Methodist Church at Houston had developed into a church of 3,500 members and has a plant valued at one and three-quarter million dollars. Previous to this pastorate, Dr. Bryan served as pastor of Centenary Church, St. Louis, and other pastorates in Missouri and Kentucky, including a term as district superintendent in Missouri.

A native of Dawson City, Canada, Dr. Bryan was educated at the University of Texas, Southern Methodist University, and the University of Chicago. Central College, Fayette, Mo., conferred upon him the Doctor of Divinity degree in 1936.

Dr. Bryan was a member of the General Conference in 1944 and 1948, and of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in 1944 and 1948. He has been a member of the General Board of Evangelism since 1944, chairman of the South Central Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism since 1944, and chairman of the Texas Conference Board of Evangelism since 1939. In 1941 he was a member of the evangelistic team of the National Christian Preaching Mission. During the recent Year of Evangelism he directed numerous Schools of Visitation Evangelism across the country, including the highly successful one at Chicago.

Mrs. Bryan is the former Rachel Marie Boynton, and there are two children: Mrs. Richard V. Lewis, of Austin, Texas; and Oscar who is in high school.

Dr. Bryan will make his home in Nashville, moving in late October, and will enter at once into his responsible duties.

New Quadrennial Program

The Advance for Christ and His Church, Methodism's new program which is a continuing Crusade for Christ, is beginning to get under way now in organized form.

A great meeting was held at Columbus, Ohio, October 4, 5, with the Bishops, District Superintendents, Board Secretaries, and Editors attending. Both the Church Press and the secular press will contain articles of information and inspiration about it from time to time. *Shepherds* desires to be of as much service to the Advance as possible, solicitous that The Church might have a real advance and prove to be an Evangelistic Church according to the desires of its founding fathers. May our Church fulfill its real mission in spreading scriptural holiness throughout the continent and over the world.

Dr. E. Harold Mohn has been called from the pastorate of the First Methodist Church in Warren, Ohio, to be the Executive Director of the Advance for Christ and His Church. Working in close cooperation with Bishop William E. Martin, the Director, Dr. Mohn will occupy the offices of the Advance headquarters at 740 Rush Street, Chicago.

1,911,719

How many is 1,911,719? None of us really know, but that is the number of pieces of literature pastors and churches ordered from TIDINGS during the month of September. Literally hundreds of thousands of pieces of "See You in Church Sunday" materials and hundreds of thousands of World Wide Communion materials were included.

Christmas, Watch Night, and Covenant Sunday materials will probably reach more than 1,000,000 pieces in December. Pastors could order (and we think *should* order) more than a million Covenant Cards alone. Please order early, and at your request the bill can come to your church treasurer. Get ahead of the heavy Christmas mails.

District Wide Emphasis on Evangelism

by
R. G. Lord, District Superintendent
Greenwood, Mississippi

The district-wide emphasis on evangelism pays off in great results. In the Year of Evangelism (1946) we had such an emphasis and received 681 by profession and 727 by transfer. In 1947 we did not have such a program and dropped to 290 by profession and 337 by transfer. Furthermore, there are many values that cannot be shown by statistics.

The program of evangelism of the Greenwood District, North Mississippi Conference, was designed this year for continuous emphasis on evangelism in all of its phases and as a program of action leading toward the true objectives of evangelism.

The district is composed of 29 pastoral charges with 83 churches, ranging in membership from about 12 to 1,700. The district has 12,086 members scattered throughout 10 counties and living in county-seat towns, plantation towns, and farm communities.

The pastors voted to project a district-wide program of evangelism for this Conference Year. Early in the year a two-day retreat for all of the pastors was held with Dr. Harry Denman giving helpful guidance in planning the program and inspired the group with spiritual messages. W. V. Stokes, the Conference Secretary of Evangelism, led the discussion on surveys and visitation.

The program was built around three major areas of action: friendly community study or survey, visitation, and the preaching mission or revival meeting.

January and February were given to the survey, the listing of prospects, and organizing prayer and other spiritual life groups.

Visitation was the emphasis for March. This included the selection and training of visitors, the holding of schools of visitation, and visitation in the local churches. Seven schools were held and were attended by more than 200 pastors and workers. Instructions were given for visitation in the local churches. These were followed by visitation in the local communities both at a special period and during the revival meeting.

Two weeks, April 4-15, were set aside for a simultaneous preaching mission. The churches that could not hold their meetings at this time deferred their revival efforts to the summer period. Each pastor chose the visiting preacher for his church and provided for the honorarium. During the period, April 4-15, twenty-four revivals were held, with Dr. Roy L. Smith preaching at Greenwood, the district headquarters. On Monday, April 5, all of the pastors of the district and the visiting ministers gathered at Greenwood, heard Dr. Smith at the morning hour, met in the afternoon for further prayer and plans, and heard Dr. Smith again. From this meeting they went out to conduct the revivals.

The district superintendent has given continuous emphasis to the program and has kept check on the progress through the Quarterly Conferences, monthly meetings of the pastors, and the District Conference.

Excellent results have been attained. The pastors have reported increases in regular church worship services and the church school. Four new church schools, several prayer meetings, and youth fellowships have been organized. The district is nearing its Crusade for Christ goals for church school enrollment. During the two previous years the district had received 2,035 members, 971 by profession and vows and 1,064 by transfer. When all the reports are in, we should receive 1,000 members this year.

In every instance where the pastor faithfully followed the plan, we have had excellent results. At Grenada, 145 members have already been received; and 55 by the small station church at Marks. Minter City and Glendora thought they had few prospects but have already received 35 on profession of faith.

Thrilling *Touching*

New Documentary Phonograph Record

A 12-inch unbreakable vinylite record that
plays on the ordinary home phonograph at 78 r.p.m.

entitled

Witness for Christ

by Joseph Szczepkowski, Polish Pastor

in which this modern apostle, a pastor from Poland, tells the story of his suffering for Christ. This testimony was recorded as he thrilled the Bishops and the District Superintendents at the

Columbus, Ohio, meeting of
The Advance for Christ and His Church

Use this heart-stirring message

- In district and subdistrict meetings
- In Quarterly Conferences and Official Board meetings
- In Area and Regional meetings
- In adult classes and youth fellowship meetings
- And, best of all, in regular church services

To stimulate churches in the Advance for Christ and His Church

$2.50—ORDER NOW—While They Last—Number Limited

1908 Grand Avenue, TIDINGS, Nashville 4, Tennessee

A BREAKFAST TABLE
At the Morning Church Service

by Claude W. Cooper, Pastor
First Methodist, Muscatine, Iowa

When I met a representative of *The Upper Room* at the meeting of the General Board of Evangelism he convinced me that the Parish Plan of distribution of *The Upper Room* would pay for itself. As soon as I returned home we put in an order for 675 copies of the September-October issue and asked for a similar number of free coin envelopes that are available from the Upper Room Office. We purchased mailing envelopes locally. With our addressograph we stamped on the back of each *Upper Room* the name of the church and pastor and the telephone number of the church office.

The coin envelope was hooked over the front page of *The Upper Room* with the envelope showing on the outside and the flap of the envelope on the inside. The following letter was mimeographed and included in the mailing! (See letter.)

The mailings were at the 1½c rate. Our postmaster said that if the letter had been entirely about the enclosed booklet it could have been mailed at the one-cent rate. We felt that our postscript announcement was important enough to pay the higher postage.

The Upper Rooms were mailed August 25th. On August 29th at the Sunday morning service the Roggeveen family demonstrated the use of *The Upper Room* at the breakfast table. The table was set inside the chancel before the service. After the responsive reading and the Gloria Patri, as the congregation was getting settled the Roggeveen family came forward. Mr. Roggeveen came from the choir and Mrs. Roggeveen and the children came from the congregation. No announcement was made of their coming.

The script used was as follows:

Mrs. R: "Come on, everybody! Breakfast is ready!"

Billy R: "I'm so hungry."

Mr. R: "Billy, will you say grace for us this morning?" (The family bow.)

Billy R: "God is great, God is good, and we thank Him for this food, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Mr. R: "Here's *The Upper Room* for today." He read the page for August 29th.

Mrs. R: "By the way, the new *Upper Room* came in the mail today. There's a new prayer on the back page that is very nice. Will you read it, Daddy"?

Mr. R: "O here it is" (reads): "Dear Father, teach us to be thankful for the little things of life: bread, laughter, sunshine and rain, the love of our friends, the confidence of those who trust us. Thank you, God, for the little things that make life great. Amen."

Mrs. R: "Wouldn't you children like to learn that new prayer?"

Mr. R: "And look at that picture on the front page! Say, what is this envelope for? Oh, I see. That's to put the money in to pay for *The Upper Room.* We'll have to put that in the church collection Sunday."

Mrs. R: "You children eat your breakfast now so you won't be late to school."

As they left the table and went back to their places, I thanked the Roggeveen family for showing us one way of using *The Upper Room,* and said that we hoped that every family would use it every day.

The next Sunday, September 5th, we used the stencil insert with the picture of *The Upper Room* in our church bulletin. We obtained this free from the Upper Room office.

The income from the envelopes surprised us. It has paid all expenses involved, in spite of the fact that we began this plan during the vacation season. We have received to date about $50.00 in the offering envelopes. The next distribution we expect to make through our Unit system, with our church visitors carrying *The Upper Room* to every one of our church families. If this is satisfactory we may use the mails only occasionally for *The Upper Room.*

The reaction of the congregation has been very good. With the exception of three who returned their copies saying that they did not want to use them, the financial response seems to be an indication of the appreciation of the congregation for this service.

Miss Myrta Baker, Church Secretary; Miss Juanita Wood, Director of Christian Education; and Dr. Claude W. Cooper, Pastor, of the First Methodist Church, Muscatine, Iowa, with three stacks of copies of *The Upper Room* for distribution.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Muscatine, Iowa.
Claude W. Cooper, Minister
August 25, 1948

Church Phone 1172
Parsonage 188

Miss Juanita Wood,
Director of Religious Education
Miss Myrta Baker,
Church Secretary

Dear Friends:

Here is your copy of THE UPPER ROOM for September and October. We are sending this remarkable devotional magazine to every family of our Church with the hope and expectation that you will use it in family worship.

Place it on or near the dining table and make it the basis of worship for the family. You will discover useful prayers on the back cover as well as on each daily page. There is a Bible lesson given for each day. The negro spiritual "I Couldn't hear nobody pray" expresses our need of daily prayer. This is one thing we can all do together.

We are asking every family of our Church to use this manual daily. Begin September first on the first day.

The picture on the front cover of THE UPPER ROOM is worth our study. On page 2 of the booklet, there is an interpretation of this picture by Professor Albert E. Bailey of Boston University. Read it to the family and you will enjoy the picture more.

Would you like to help send THE UPPER ROOM to every family of our Church? The cost is about 8 cents per family, each copy. If you would like to help, enclose your contribution in the enclosed envelope and place on the offering plate Sunday at the Church Service, or send to the Church Office.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

Claude W. Cooper

P.S. Flash! Next Sunday, August 29th, is our first Sunday back in our own church. Be sure to be with us next Sunday morning. The sermon subject will be "What Shall We Leave To Our Children?" This is the first Sunday of the fall program. There will be reception of members next Sunday.

ON PAGE 29

Manger scene outside Methodist church, Seguin, Texas, arranged by the young people. The figures were hand-painted in oil, and giant candles were placed around the base. Carols were amplified from the tower each evening, and the community was thrilled.

Your circle of friends, your church, your community includes young men now in military service. They are without the exhilaration, the glamour if you please, that comes to the soldier and sailor in time of war. They face all the temptations that confronted their brothers a few years ago, and probably some additional ones. At the same time there are fewer agencies to care for them. Are you caring for them as you did their older brothers? Are they in your prayes? Do you regularly send packages and letters?

The Upper Room provides strength for day to day living with its Bible verses, stimulating pages and prayers. Thousands of service men can testify to its value. The pocket edition is made especially for the soldier. Be sure he gets a copy of each issue. It can be enclosed in an ordinary envelope.

Enter a standing order for enough copies to take care of your boys—the same edition is valuable for all your young people—those away from home especially. Order now, The Upper Room Pocket Edition.

10 or more copies to one address—5 cents each

•

THE UPPER ROOM

• 1908 GRAND AVE. •

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

South Central Jurisdiction

Adopts Great Program of Evangelism

The South Central Jurisdiction has a functioning Jurisdictional Council with Dr. Paul D. Wormeldorf as Chairman. The various Jurisdictional Boards are well organized and promote effectively the total purpose and program of the Church. Anyone conversant with the over-all picture of the success of the Year of Evangelism and the total Crusade for Christ realizes how well this Jurisdiction accomplished its goals. Recently the Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism organized for the new quadrennium, electing Dawson C. Bryan, Chairman; Cecil Culver, Vice-Chairman; William I. Hastie, Secretary; and Mrs. John B. Leonard, Treasurer. We give below some of the recommendations and programs effected at this organizational meeting.

1. The Executive Committee is authorized to study the advisability of employing a full-time Director of Evangelism, paid by the Jurisdiction with cooperative relationship with the General Board of Evangelism.
2. Goals for new members on Confession of Faith were accepted for the Jurisdiction and apportioned to the Conferences as follows:

Conference	*1949*	*1950*
Little Rock	3,945	4,786
Louisiana	4,588	5,572
North Arkansas	4,067	4,939
North Texas	5,202	6,317
Northwest Texas	4,095	4,973
Central Texas	5,049	6,131
Rio Grande	389	473
Southwest Texas	4,521	5,490
Texas	7,342	8,916
Central Kansas	5,582	6,778
Kansas	4,566	5,544
Nebraska	5,765	7,001
East Oklahoma	3,616	4,391
Indian Mission	180	218
New Mexico	1,790	2,173
West Oklahoma	4,535	5,507
Missouri	3,695	4,487
St. Louis	3,942	4,787
Southwest Missouri	4,119	5,002

The Jurisdictional share of the national goal of a minimum of 600 new churches for the new quadrennium is accepted, and we are challenged to help recruit ministers and lay workers to man those churches. Recognizing that our church awaits a new lay preaching movement, the Board urges churches in rural areas of the Jurisdiction to select laymen to carry the message of evangelism to the isolated families scattered across the country.

In attempting to meet the goals suggested, there should be a definite program of evangelism among college and high school students, with visitation work promoted among the young people themselves. A youth revival is called for, with emphasis upon changed lives and consecrated to full-time life service in the Church.

3. It is recommended that two-day Conference (or Area) meetings be held for all members of Conference Boards of Evangelism, with effort to secure the presence of District Secretaries of Evangelism also. The major emphasis at these meetings will be upon the local church program of evangelism, and how the Conference and District can help.
4. Through the office of the Executive Secretary of the Jurisdiction, there should be compiled a mailing list of all Areas, Conferences, and District evangelistic leaders. Conference Boards should compile a list of Local Church Lay Leaders and Chairmen of Local Church Membership and Evangelism Committees.
5. Efforts should be made to discover the evangelistic victories and make them known throughout the Jurisdiction.
6. A list of evangelistic leaders should be established in the Jurisdictional office. The names of pastors, evangelistic singers, visitation evangelism school leaders, and experienced lay workers in evangelism are to be sent in by Conference Secretaries of Evangelism, District Superintendents, and District Secretaries of Evangelism. This would provide a bureau of evangelistic leaders.
7. Promote the use of audio-visual evangelistic materials, and build up a recommended list of films and materials, using the Jurisdictional Office as the medium of exchange: e.g., "Reaching from Heaven"; "Messenger of Peace"; and "God is My Landlord" were mentioned as belonging in this list.

8a. It is strongly recommended that local churches should be encouraged to buy evangelistic and devotional literature, including SHEPHERDS, and that they should supply copies of SHEPHERDS for their Committee on Membership and Evangelism.

b. Every church should provide an ample supply of family devotional literature, like *The Upper Room,* various other publications of *The Upper Room, The Christian Advocate,* and material which will be acceptable to both young and old of the family. District Committees of Evangelism may make recommendations of suitable literature of this character to church committees.

c. There should be a definite encouragement of the re-establishment of the family pew in the worship service of the church.

9. Regional and local radio programs of devotional or evangelistic and religious character should be created, and Conference Boards should promote listening to net-work religious radio and television.

10. Conference Boards should furnish teams of workers for churches and places which need evangelistic help. Conference Boards are urged to keep lists of workers available for this small-group evangelism.

11. Separate retreats for ministers and laymen should be provided, at least on the Annual Conference level, to deepen the spiritual life of both.

12. Conference and District Schools of Evangelism should be promoted, using the new revised "stream-lined" methods of approach to the whole program of visitation and public evangelism. Men who know how already should be motivated to carry out their training, to put their knowledge into action, and should be guided in developing strong assimilation programs in the local churches. Too little attention is being paid to this important follow-up of the reception of members.

13. Implementing action of the General Conference relative to the use of "letters of notification" for members who move to another community, it is urged that the Jurisdictional Office be used as a clearing house for handling these certificates of notification. Pastors are requested to use the system. The "letters of notification" are to be sent to the Jurisdictional Office only when the District Superintendent or the Pastor in the new community is not known.

14. Full cooperation should be given other denominations in promoting evangelism.

15. A Jurisdictional Convocation is recommended to be held at Mt. Sequoyah in 1949 during a week (between Sundays), with plans to be worked out by the Jurisdictional Executive Committee in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the General Board of Evangelism.

16. In accordance with the thought that "A church that is through with evangelism is *through*," it is recommended that every Pastor of the Jurisdiction be urged to work out a full twelve month's program of evangelism, in cooperation with his Committee on Membership and Evangelism, at the beginning of each year. In doing this, attendance and membership goals should be set, Decision Day planned, definite periods set in which laymen are trained and used in visitation evangelism, the Board of Education cooperated with in guiding teachers and officers in evangelism through classes and visitation, and a definite plan set up for assimilating new members.

17. It is recognized that one of the most useful books in the field of evangelism is that recently prepared by Dawson C. Bryan, *A Layman's Handbook of Evangelism* which has followed his very effective and widely-used *A Workable Plan of Evangelism*. This is a practical and well-arranged book on the purpose and methods of visitation evangelism, with special emphasis upon the layman's part. Pastors are urged to secure copies for their Fellowships of Evangelism, Fishermen's Clubs, and all personal workers.

18. The need for funds for distributing Spanish literature in the Rio Grande Conference is emphasized. It is especially desired to distribute the Spanish translation of Roy L. Smith's TIDINGS leaflet, "Why I Am a Protestant." The Jurisdictional Executive Committee is granted power to act in this matter.

19. A copy of this Program of Evangelism for the South Central Jurisdiction is to be made available to each pastor in the Jurisdiction, distribution to made through SHEPHERDS and the Conference Secretaries of Evangelism.

Pastors Will Lead Their People

COVENANT SUNDAY---January 2, 1949

The first Sunday of the New Year has long been regarded as the opportune time for the holding of a Covenant Service. Circuit churches that do not have services then, observe the first preaching Sunday in January.

What time could be more appropriate for Methodists to "bind ourselves with willing bonds to our covenant God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us"?

1949—YEAR OF CRISIS

The year 1949 seems destined to be a year of crisis, both for the Church and the World. As the Church goes in 1949, so may go the World for decades. The Christian people and the Christian forces of the world will determine the course of civilization. Spiritual knowledge and spiritual power must predominate.

USE COVENANT CARDS

The Christian God is a Covenant God. From the days of Abraham until now, God would have His people enter into a Covenant with Him.

A simple covenant card has been prepared, dealing with paramount things in the Church and in the Advance for Christ and His Church.

We call upon Pastors and Churches to order these cards in sufficient quantity now, mail them to the people, and use them for the glory of God in leading their people into higher planes of consecration and Christian living. See sample card and use order blank enclosed.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

by Harry V. Rankin, Pastor
First Methodist Church, Bay City, Texas

I. THE EFFECT OF MUSIC

There are many ways in which music affects individuals in church worship. Sacred music affects the individual in physical, mental, emotional and spiritual ways. A congregation is made up of the masses, people from different walks of life, different from the standpoint of literary and cultural advantages, different in temperament and disposition; and the music, like the sermon, must reach all if it is to serve its mission.

1. First, the physical. The first effect of music upon the individual is produced by the vibrations of the air, sound vibrations beating against the ear drums, and conveyed by the auditory nerve to the brain which in turn gives the individual a sensation or pleasure. These rhythmical musical sounds affect babies and animals in various ways, causing them at times to act in peculiar ways. A baby will begin to kick, wriggle and coo when it hears music, while a dog will howl, and a horse prance and try to keep step with it.

There are those in every congregation who get very little more out of the service than that which they get out of the music, and the sensation or pleasure is about all that they receive from it. The pleasurable effect is very vital factor in all street, shop, jail, and mission services. People love to sing just for the sake of singing and for the pleasure derived from the melodies and harmony which they hear. This is true in all congregational singing and especially in evangelistic meetings.

People like to sing

2. Second, the mental or intellectual. Without the thought element in music there could only be the pleasurable or physical effect. Without thought there could be no interpretation, and without thought there could be no execution, and without thought music would be without form and there would be no expression. The individual who experiences only the physical pleasure to be derived from music misses the great enjoyment that can come only through the avenue of thought.

3. Third, the emotional. Music's greatest mission is that of reaching the soul or the emotions. The usual feelings which come as a result of the emotions being stirred by the sacred music are happiness and joy, grief and sorrow, remorse and conviction.

4. Fourth, the spiritual. It is only by association that music has a moral or religious value. That is, music must be connected directly or indirectly with things religious, or must be arranged to sacred words to have moral or religious value. Music is one of the greatest assets in Christian work, because it affects in some way every soul who hears it.

Music stirs the emotions, and thus wields an influence for good or bad according to the will of the individual. Sacred music, to those who love Christ and are trying to live a consecrated life, brings adoration, joy and happiness, and a greater desire to love him more and to serve him better each day. To the Christian in trouble and sorrow, it brings comfort and peace and makes him submissive. To the backslider it brings afresh the memories of a Christian experience which he knew in days gone by, and awakens a desire to return to the Saviour. To the one who is out of Christ it brings conviction for sin and a desire to accept Jesus as the Saviour and Lord of his life.

II. THE POWER OF MUSIC

Though there is a physical, mental, and emotional side of music in church worship, its main function is spiritual. Music has the power to express and reproduce the spiritual moods of men. Addison says: "Music, the greatest good that mortals know, and all of heaven we have below." Plato said: "Music was not given to men with the sole view of pleasing their senses, but rather for appeasing the troubles of their souls." Bach said of music: "Its final purpose is none other than this, that it ministers solely to the honor of God and refreshment of the spirit."

1. There are many instances of the power of music given in the Bible—for example, the destruction of Jericho being accompanied by long blasts on the trumpets, in the Old Testament; and Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail, in the New Testament: "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns unto God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison-house were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's hands were loosed."

People like real artists

2. During the early centuries of Christianity music was a powerful aid in carrying on the work of the church. It is said that the barbarians were won and transformed by the singing of Christian hymns. Edwards says: "It was the hymns of Ambrose and not his eloquence which conquered Constantine." The Reformation was won largely through the singing of Luther's hymns. Cardinal Cajetan said of him, "By his songs he has conquered us." It is said that when bloodthirsty crowds could not be quelled by John Wesley's coal black eyes, nor by Whitefield's imperial voice, they were known to turn and slink away when the truth was sung to them in Charles Wesley's hymns.

3. The evangelists of modern times have all testified to the power and worth of music in evangelistic meetings. Congregational singing puts the worshiper in a receptive mood for the truths which the preacher brings in his sermons. Songs also work on the emotions and affects the will in such a way as to cause the individual who is under conviction of sin, or on a call to definite or special service, to yield to the wooing of the Holy Spirit in accepting Christ or in surrendering for special service.

Music has a mighty influence in bringing up memories of old association. Edwards says, "A simple strain from a remembered hymn has sometimes melted a brazen heart and reconstructed a wrecked life." In this last thought lies the power of the gospel song in street or mission service as well as in the evangelistic service.

Music is the handmaiden of the Christian Church and through it the soul can give expression to its every emotion.

4. What would life be without music? What would the church do without music? Let us cherish and cultivate it, always striving to build up the musical part of the church life. Let us never be guilty again of thinking of the song service as simply a necessary evil. Let us realize that it has been used for great spiritual gains in the past and that it still may be a great means of support to our entire ministry when given a proper consideration.

"Show me a church where the music drags, and I'll show you a church that is dragging. But show me a church where music is regarded as important and where the gospel song is still sung with enthusiasm, and I will show you a church that is reaching the people with a gospel message."

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

by Garland Evans Hopkins

Associate Secretary, Board of Missions and Church Extension

It was the day after the Invasion. The combat photographer and I were carefully picking our way through the ruins of what had been a rather beautiful little town, the capital city of one of the Philippine provinces. We were on the watch for booby-traps or other explosives left by the enemy. Presently, we came to the ruins of what had been a native Protestant church. It had been bombed again and again, as it had been reported as the repository of a large amount of ammunition. Only crumbled cement and ashes were left.

The photographer noticed a single sheet out of a hymnal which somehow had escaped burning. He passed it to me and I saw at once that it was Samuel Smith's familiar hymn, "The Morning Light Is Breaking," I stopped a moment, almost stunned by the hope and promise of the message of that hymn even in such time and place. Then I said to myself, "This is the truth; it must be the truth; if it is not the truth, all this we do today is in vain. Certainly the men who have witnessed the destruction and death which has come of our failure to be Christian will go back to demand a more active program of spreading the truth of the Prince of Peace to our darkened world."

Turning to my friend I said, "Listen while I read you a marvelous thought." I read:

"The morning light is breaking,
The darkness disappears;
The sons of earth are waking
To penitential tears;
Each breeze that sweeps the ocean
Brings tidings from afar
Of nations in commotion,
Prepared for Zion's war."

He turned to me and said, "That's rather wonderful, isn't it? In all of this wrecked town today the only message of hope is found here in the church."

Many people are going to stay up on New Year's Eve anyway. So why not hold

A WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

that is worshipful and helpful? A church social featuring fun, food, and fellowship—held at the church or in a nearby home—can precede this service. Your young people and many older ones will cooperate.

If you do not want to build a Watch Night Service of your own, and if you want sufficient copies for all to take part in the service, we call your attention to the inside back cover of this magazine—and to the sample Worship Service enclosed.

The Pastor Aids a Couple

TO ADOPT A BABY

by Edmond H. Babbitt, Board of Hospital and Homes

One of the most powerful urges in life is the desire to be parent to a child. Many childless couples have had heavy hearts. Women who have had the true mother instinct and the psychological "know how" to rear a child have gone through life childless. Whenever a minister can assist a couple to secure a baby for adoption he may well consider that he has rendered a noble, Christian service. Not only has he aided in strengthening a Christian home but he has had a part in providing a home for a needy child.

In counseling with such a couple the minister should first advise that the couple examine themselves and their motives. Are they in agreement that they want a child? Do they have good reason why they cannot have a child of their own? Have they consulted a qualified physician? Are both husband and wife committed to the years of responsibility which go with parenthood or is this a passing whim? Do they have the financial ability to give a child the necessities of life including an education? Do both prospective parents have reasonably good health? Is it their desire to bring the child up in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are they too old to adopt a child? If the minister has reason to believe that the couple are disqualified he ought to consult an accredited child welfare agency before referring them further.

The minister can next recommend the couple to an accredited adoption agency. Not all homes for children carry on adoption work. However, any home or agency will be able to give helpful information. Many states license agencies which do adoption work. If no such licensing takes place the county child welfare agent or some other accepted welfare department can give information about agencies which are approved. For the protection of both the couple and the baby it is recommended that only accredited agencies be consulted.

There are hazards and serious risks involved in getting a baby on the "tip" of an attorney, from a substandard maternity home, from a mid-wife, or even from a reputable physician. A baby secured from an accredited agency has been examined to determine, as far as tests can determine, if the child is normal. The mother has signed a release for the baby and cannot embarrass the parents ten years later. There is little possibility that in a few years the baby will prove to be mentally deficient or incurably handicapped. Furthermore, an accredited agency examines the prospective home as to its suitability. The social case worker on the job is the neutral friend of the couple and the baby.

The couple should make their request known to the agency in writing and cooperate in every way with the agency. If seemingly useless and unimportant questions are asked, let them be answered cheerfully. From the time of application until the couple walk out of a hospital or away from a home with the baby in their arms it will probably be months and maybe years. Let no one, minister or lay person, think that adopting a baby is a quick and easy process. However, I have been told that a war refugee baby can be secured more readily than an American baby.

Every pastor ought to know that many states have a law which prohibits the sale of a baby. Any person arranging the details of adoption is forbidden to receive a fee. Most adoption agencies divorce any financial consideration from the adoption process.

It is difficult to adopt a baby across state lines; however, it is done. Anyone interested in a publication which lists all major adoption agencies in the United States, state laws, etc., may secure "Law of Adoption Simplified," $1.00, Oceana Publications, 115 West 42nd Street; New York City.

When the probationary year has passed and the court gives order that the couple can legally have the baby and give him their name, many couples desire to have a religious ceremony. This is to be encouraged. It could be conducted in a home or as part of a regular church service. Pastors or others interested in the ritual for such a service may secure it or additional information about adoptions from the Board of Hospitals and Homes, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

Christmas is an excellent time to baptize babies

Lay your hand upon the head of a baby

"Baptized Today"

Please send me at your earliest convenience three dozen of the booklets "Baptized Today" a word to parents. I have found these to be very effective in giving parents and I would like to have them handy.

—*E. J. Pendergrass,* Pastor First Methodist Church, Tampa, Florida

and you lay it upon the heart of the parent

Keep a supply of the TIDINGS leaflet, "Baptized Today—A Word to Parents" on hand. 5c each; 12 for 50c.

GOALS AND EMPHASES FOR CHURCH SCHOOL

The General Conference at Boston approved a great program of education and evangelism for execution by the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education.

We give herewith the ten-point program which is a challenge to the Church and to each local church.

We hope every pastor and local church official will keep these goals before them.

We believe that these goals can be accomplished but each one of us will have to pray much and work hard.

The Board of Evangelism pledges itself to help the Board of Education and every Bishop, Superintendent, Pastor and church school officer to achieve the goals.

—HARRY DENMAN

The General Conference adopted the following "Program of Education for the Next Quadrennium." This action is stated in these words: "Be it resolved that the goals and special emphases of the educational and evangelistic work adopted by the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education for the ensuing quadrennium be approved as follews:

I. *Add 1,700,000 New Church School Members*

With a Methodist constituency of approximately 20,000,000 people in this country, a church-school membership of 7,000,000 should be the minimum goal for church-school membership in 1952.

II. *Win 1,000,000 Persons to Christ and Church Membership Through the Church School*

One quarter million per year is approximately the total number of church-school pupils who are not already members of the church. We should aim at nothing less than reaching every one of them for Christ and the church. The evangelistic character of Sunday-school classes, Methodist youth assemblies and institutes, should be particularly noted and steadily advanced.

III. *Enlist Youth and Young Adults in Christian Life-Service Vocations*

This should be an enterprise enlisting several boards and agencies. This Division carries an unusual responsibility by reason of its youth program and organization, and its leadership training program.

IV. *Study the Christian Program*

Three areas are proposed as a church-wide study in Sunday schools, vacation schools, youth and adults groups:

The Bible—Study of Contents and Application

The Doctrines of the Christian Church

The History, Work, and World Mission in the Church

This will be in cooperation with the "Teaching and Preaching Endeavor" which will be led by the bishops of the church.

V. *Challenge and Teach Families to Be Christian*

The close relation between the home and the church school has long been recognized. The beginnings of religious teaching of young children, baptizing babies, training young people for Christian homemaking, classes for young parents, emphasis on Christian teaching and living in the home, larger use of *The Christian Home* magazine, are some elements in this emphasis.

VI. *Teach the Facts About Beverage Alcohol*

Specifically, the elements in this objective are:

1. One Million youth pledged to total abstinence and active opposition to beverage alcohol.

2. Regular and systematic education concerning the effects of beverage alcohol in the human body and in society.

3. Particular attention to the training of church-school teachers and leaders in best approaches to this problem.

VII. *Elevate the Stewardship Ideal in the Church School*

1. Every church-school member a regular contributor to the church budget.

2. Systematic stewardship education in all classes and groups.

3. Education in proportionate giving, recognizing the tithe as a principle.

4. Goal for giving to World Service and Conference Benevolences through the church school—a minimum of ten cents per month per member of the school.

VIII. *Strengthen the Rural Church*

Believing that the needs of the rural church should receive unusual attention in the ensuing quadrennium and that Christian education is a necessary and integral part of any constructive rural church program, we propose that unusual attention be given to strengthening the church schools in rural churches.

IX. *Educate Concerning a Christian Social and World Order*

Recognizing the social implications of Christian teachings and the desirability of a deep concern with social issues by our church members, we should give special attention in the ensuing quadrennium to a constructive study in every local church of the Christian teachings concerning these issues as they are dealt with in the Social Creed of The Methodist Church.

X. *Cultivate Commitment to Teaching Christ in All of Life's Relationships*

1. Imbue Sunday-school teachers with the necessity for being evangelists.

2. Challenge laymen to reveal the living Christ in all personal and social relationships.

RECOMMENDATIONS

by John Q. Schisler

1. That each church-school superintendent hold several meetings of his church-school workers for the purpose of reviewing these goals and emphases.

2. That each church school set a goal for increase in membership by the end of 1952 (point No. I) and a goal for the number of church-school pupils to be received into the membership of the church by the end of 1952 (point No. II). These may be broken down into years or shorter periods, as each local church may desire.

3. That each of the other points be given careful study, adaptations made to local conditions where necessary and plans made for carrying out each point (or the adaptation thereof) in each school.

4. That each church school begin this Quadrennium Advance program not later than the first week in October, 1948, and that it make a quarterly checkup or review of progress on these goals.

We Shall Advance and Achieve IN THE CENTRAL JURISDICTION

by J. W. Golden, Associate Secretary

There is no way to evaluate our Christian faith, our service rendered, and our spiritual successes by mathematical calculation; yet, these contribute to the creation of a wholesome society and the building of a better world. It has been unfaltering faith and hard continuous sacrificial service that has brought many glorious achievements to the Church through the centuries and also the signal success of the Crusade for Christ during the last quadrennium.

By Faith We Achieve

Now we are called to an "Advance for Christ and His Church" in every department of the Church and all phases of its divinely-given task. This is tremendous. For evangelism, our quadrennial goal for The Methodist Church is 2,000,000 persons to be won on profession of faith, 500,000 lay workers and 100,000 young people to be trained in personal evangelism, and for all Methodists to go deeper in earnest thought and prayer for spiritual revitalization.

When these and all kindred things are included in the total program for the people called Methodists in the Central Jurisdiction, we must acknowledge that the task is great. But when we consider the suffering, the greed, the sin, and the tragic conditions of the world, we realize that the demands are necessary and that our God does call us now to *advance* and attempt what seems impossible. Such has often been true in our world's history. But by faith and earnest efforts, seemingly impossible victories are achieved.

By this sign, and by the spirit and power of Christ, we shall advance and achieve in the Central Jurisdiction. The spirit of earnest endeavor is being manifested in each of our Institutes on Evangelism, also in planning and workers' institutes in Annual Conferences and districts. In these workers' conferences, training is being given to ministers, laymen, laywomen, and young people in visitation evangelism. Also how to plan and promote pulpit and public evangelism is being taught, and opportunities given for practical work in surveys and visitation. These institutes and conferences have been climaxed with a real consecration for the task.

From Lent to Pentecost

Our Bishops and several district superintendents are manifesting a real interest in helping pastors and other leaders to plan and promote evangelism in the Advance for Christ and His Church.

Sermons are being preached and discussion meetings are being held on the need of spiritual revitalization, and our evangelistic challenge and opportunities. Every local church is urged to list and pray for its prospects, to select and train its workers, and to plan and prepare to make Lent a period of visitation and Passion Week a real preaching mission, and then to carry on to Pentecost with well planned revivals on city-wide and district levels, simultaneously. In some districts, ministers are working together in groups of three: one to preach, one to make altar calls, and another to direct the cottage and prayer groups. Well chosen directors or song leaders are to be used in connection with choirs and choruses and also congregational singing.

In the Central Jurisdiction special emphasis is being placed on finding, winning and training new recruits for Christ and His Church, and church school teachers and other leaders are called upon to do personal service.

Funds Needed for Special Projects

If money could be found we would try to secure several young ministers from Gammon Theological Seminary and other institutions and use them throughout the summer in evangelistic preaching missions, in revivals in both rural and urban churches, in organizing Sunday schools and new churches in places where many of our people have gone, and in visitation evangelism. This would give them practical training and an enriched experience in this much-needed type of Christian service of winning people to Christ and His Church, and also in teaching and inspiring young people in the practice of the Christian life.

Any person or concern contributing through the General Board of Evangelism to this special type of work in our Central Jurisdiction will do a great Christian service that in a special way will bring far-reaching results in the Advance for Christ and His Church.

The goal is before us. With faith, plus hard continuous work, success will be achieved.

The pictures here show groups trained in Institutes of Evangelism, and many persons consecrated for the task.

Excellent work is being done in the Central Jurisdiction under the leadership of Bishops Shaw, Kelly, Brooks, and Bowen, the faithful district superintendents, and J. W. Golden.

The funds needed that Dr. Golden hesitantly speaks of are desperately needed and would be of incalculable help—even a God-send. Contact Dr. Golden or Dr. Harry Denman.

The Use of Recording Equipment BY PASTOR AND CHURCH

by Harry L. Williams, Director
Department of Public Evangelism, General Board of Evangelism

Recent improvements in the science of recording sound have made it imperative that every preacher become familiar with the new techniques and what they can do for him in his ministry and his church. This interest and use does not in any sense make him a gadgeteer. Rather, it helps him to keep pace with the age in which he lives.

It is not my object to sell anything, but if I were a pastor today, I would have recording equipment even if I had to go without some other things, even the use of my car for a limited time, in order to purchase it. Recording equipment has become a *must* among the preacher's tools, that he may become a more effective minister and render greater service.

When the preacher made use of the horse and buggy, and then of the horseless carriage, he was not called a gadgeteer. He was merely keeping up with the times. Likewise when he purchases dictation equipment, he is getting something necessary to more effective functioning. So it is with recording equipment. Recording is something that has become possible now to even the non-technically-minded pastor. One does not have to be an electronics engineer to use such equipment any more than to use the radio in the home.

TYPES OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT

Many different kinds of recording equipment are available for the pastor today. High fidelity recordings can be made today even by the inexperienced. Take a brief look at the various kinds of equipment:

Earle H. MacLeod

1. Magnetic Recorders

The principle of magnetic recording has been in the scientific hopper for a number of years, but it required a war to put it to practical use. Two types of magnetic recording equipment are now on the market, both using the same principle. The carrier wave in this type of recording is a variable impulse of magnetic intensity that is placed on either tape or wire, either of which is quite satisfactory.

(1) The Tape Recorder

There are many different makes of tape recorders on the market. They use a spool of paper or plastic tape which has on it an iron sulfide solution that receives the magnetic impulse. The cost of a spool for a half-hour's recording varies from $2.50 to $5.00. As time goes on the cost will go down, so that they may become cheap enough to be filed away for a permanent record. But fortunately, they may be used over and over again because a recording automatically wipes off the previous one. So far, the longest tape recording available is a half-hour, and the speed of recording machines is fairly well standardized at seven feet of tape per minute.

(2) The Wire Recorder

Numerous wire recorders are also on the market. The principle is exactly the same with the tape recorder, but instead of using paper or plastic tape these machines use a high carbon steel wire about 4/1000 of an inch in diameter. These machines will record anywhere from 15 minutes to three hours, depending upon the make of the machine and the amount of wire on each spool. There is no standardized speed for wire recorders as yet.

2. Engraving Equipment

This equipment cuts a standard record or transcription. By engraving a groove from soft lacquer a record is cut (10, 12, or 16 inches in diameter; and either 78 or 33 1/3 r.p.m.—revolutions per minute). The

cheap machines of this type do not make a high fidelity recording. The more expensive machines, however, make excellent recordings.

Skill is required to use this equipment effectively. It is too complicated for the average pastor to give sufficient time to master it. It does have, however, the one advantage of being able to store the record. Some dictating machines use this same principle on a soft, plastic disc, but this is not of sufficient quality for rebroadcasting or for playing back before an audience.

3. Embossing Equipment

There is still another type of recorder which uses a blunt needle pressing into a soft plastic disc that turns at about 16¼ r.p.m. With this machine it is possible to record a half-hour program on a 12-inch disc. While it does not have the playback quality of either of the previous types, it has the advantage of a half-hour's recording being filed away at a cost of about 30c. This is more of a reference recorder than anything else.

4. Film Recording

This is the highly professional and technical process of changing a sound wave into a light beam and recording the impression on film. The sound track of all sound motion pictures is made this way, and this process may be used someday for recording operas, symphonies, etc. So far, no cheap equipment of this kind is on the market.

Mentioning the names of equipment has been avoided, because this is something the individual purchaser should study carefully in making his selection. It is like purchasing a car. Just as every car owner thinks his car is the best, even so many users of recording equipment feel that theirs is the best on the market.

A word should be said, however, on the procedure of selecting equipment. One might, first, set down all the uses he wants to make of the equipment. This will help in the selection of the kind and make of equipment. Some feel that they should wait, because new equipment is coming out all the time. But this is true with automobiles, washing machines, and nearly everything else. It will probably always be true that anything purchased today will be superseded tomorrow. Improvements are bound to be made in recording instruments, but the equipment now available is sufficiently good to be of service for a long time.

RECORDING THE SERMON

Preaching is one of the major functions of the ministry. There was a time when the preacher was the "talkingest" man of the community. This is no longer true. Now there are others who are better speakers than he. They have given more time and training to the use of their voices and the art of delivery, and they are able to communicate their ideas with greater effectiveness than the average preacher. This is true of those in the radio, television, and motion picture industry, whose business it is to talk to the public. This means that the preacher must now put more emphasis on the "how" of his delivery than ever before. The use of recordings can help him in doing this.

This machine is available from The Methodist Publishing House

1. Preserve Sermon Ideas

Something you have seen or read or heard, or someone you have met, has given you an inspiration. If you could give full expression to your thoughts at that time, you could preserve the inspiration for future use. We have all had the experience of jotting down notes about an idea and then trying in vain to recapture the full inspiration. With a recorder one can preserve the inspiration by putting down the full development of the idea as fast as it comes to him. This can then be auditioned for future use, or typewritten and filed away.

Capture that illusive inspiration, that great sermon idea on a recorder, give it full expression, and keep it for future use.

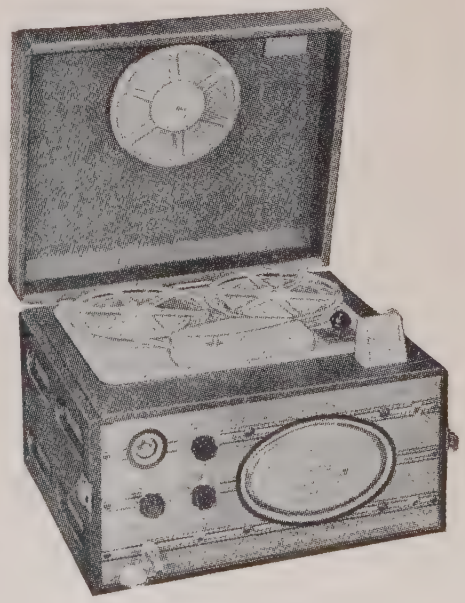
2. Sermon Preparation

Recording equipment will make it possible for a pastor to dictate a full sermon; to put the message on the wire just as he thinks he would like to give it to his people. He can listen back to his own message beforehand, can practice its interpretation, and can re-work sentences, paragraphs, and sections that do not measure up to his highest expectations and satisfactions. When the sermon is finally done on the recording equipment, the pastor can listen to it a number of times to remember the succession of ideas. This will help him to preach without notes or manuscript, a method so appreciated by the people. This will make his message so much a part of his thinking that the sequence of emotion and the train of ideas will follow naturally and easily in his sermon delivery.

3. Sermon Improvement

A pastor may record his sermon exactly as he delivers it to his congregation. In doing this the microphone from his public address system can be connected to the recorder, or the microphone of the recorder itself may be set up on the pulpit. Then the pastor should forget the microphone except to treat it like other microphones. Care should be taken to speak into it even while speaking to the people.

One of the most refreshing experiences of a pastor's ministry is to hear himself as others hear him. It is a scientific fact that one has never heard his own voice unless he has heard it re-



corded. What you hear of your natural voice is a bone vibration up through the inner ear, while what others hear is the process of a sound wave hitting their ear drums and thus transmitted to their brain. The two things are entirely different, and unless you have heard yourself recorded you have never really heard yourself. Recording equipment gives a pastor a chance to hear himself as others hear him. If a pastor really wants a "blue Monday," this may be the way to have it.

Most every preacher knows enough about delivery and diction and the use of voice to be able to be his own critic. He can detect the pitfalls of bad habits in his speech, and he can check his pronunciation of words, his delivery, his interpretation of ideas.

It's even a good thing occasionally to record scripture reading. Most preachers are notoriously bad readers—that is, they are *"read-y"* when they read.

Recording one's self can be an enlightening and developing experience. By the use of a few books on speech, one can appraise his own voice as objectively as he would another person's. He can concentrate upon these weak points he discovers, and thus he can constantly grow and improve.

There is an outstanding preacher in America who used to be an "old-fashioned shouting Methodist" until he recorded his sermons. He was so disgusted with himself that he changed his style of preaching, and through the use of a public address system he developed an intimate conversational style of delivery that has made his church famous for its atmosphere of friendliness. Everyone who attends his church has the feeling he is speaking just to them. His sermon creates a person to person relationship and is not just an oratorical bombast, a style which has long since ceased to be effective.

4. Preaching to Shut-ins

Many preachers have found recording equipment helpful for recording the Sunday morning service, or just the sermon, and taking it to play back to shut-ins. Sometimes young people or interested laymen or laywomen gladly take the recording equipment and reproduce the sermon or the service for shut-in members of the church. Thus, some who may never have heard him preach in person, hear him through the recorder. Moreover, this recorded service helps many faithful members who are ill to bridge over those long and lonely periods when they are convalescing.

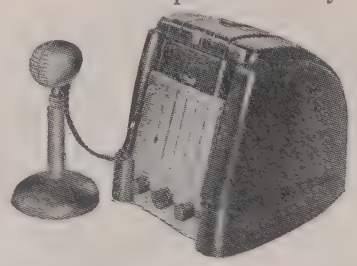
5. Preaching Though Absent

Recording equipment makes it possible for the preacher to supply his own preaching when he is away from his pulpit—on vacation, or necessarily elsewhere for a Sunday. Several pastors have had their laymen conduct the service and then at sermon time use the recording equipment to reproduce the sermon previously prepared and recorded by the pastor himself. This sermon is delivered through the public address system or the special speaker that is installed for the purpose.

By this same method it is also possible for a preacher on a circuit to reach each of his churches every Sunday.

6. Services to Institutions

Almost every pastor has an obligation to certain institutions in his community. These may be homes for the aged, hospitals, prisons, sanitariums, and the like. It is not always possible for him to give a sustained and consistent ministry to these institutions, but the use of a recorder makes it possible for him to offer a more complete ministry and



service. In his absence a recorded sermon may be used. When he is present and able to deliver his message in person, with his recording equipment he can provide music from his choir, or his own church service, thus giving atmosphere and background to the occasion. An almost unlimited variety or combination of uses can be worked out in this way.

PRESERVING THE RECORD

1. Historic Events

Recording equipment makes it possible to keep a record of events of great significance in a church. The burning of the mortage, the installation of the new minister, the dedication of a building, or whatever it is desired to preserve. It is possible to use a magnetic recording to dubb this on to a platter, or to have it done, and to file the platter as a part of the archives of the church.

Recently the writer was associated with a new church. The very first meeting of this church had been recorded, because the home in which the meeting was held had recording equipment. That record has now been dubbed on platters and is a part of the historical record of the church. After a few years the first pastor retired and the testimonial dinner was recorded. Duplicate recordings of the testimonies were made, and copies given to him and copies kept for the church records. His final sermon was recorded. In years to come there can be flashbacks in which excerpts from these recordings can be used to make an interesting meeting.

2. Official Board Meeting

It is possible to set the microphone of recording equipment so that the meeting of an official board may be recorded. This recording can go to the church office and the church secretary can transcribe the important motions and actions, if it is not desired to keep all the discussion involved, thus preserving the important items and statements word for word.

3. Important Conversations

Sometimes the pastor has conversations with individuals by telephone or otherwise that he would like to keep. The recording equipment will make this possible. One warning should be issued here. It is illegal to record a telephone conversation unless you tell the person at the other end that his conversation is being recorded. Courtesy alone would require this.

4. News for a Documentary

If some of the church's activities are recorded, the recording might be used later in the formulation of a documentary program for other church functions.

5. Counseling Interviews

Some pastors do a great deal more personal counseling than others. Usually, in the counseling technique it requires a succession of interviews. It is not always easy to remember what has preceeded in a given case. It is possible by the use of recording equipment to record these interviews for the pastor's own record, recollection, and study. Many doctors are using recording equipment to record consultations, that they might have a complete record of the history of the case.

CONCLUSION

We have not exhausted the ways in which recording equipment can serve a pastor and church, but we must conclude. Another such article will appear in a future issue.

By all means, some kind of recording equipment should be available to every pastor and church, and the use of this equipment will develop with experience. It will pay rich dividends.

FOR PASTORS AND LAYMEN

Christmas in Neosho

About 5,000 people live in the little community of Neosho, Mo. This year, as the Christmas season began, Attorney Wayne Slankard and a few of his friends felt an urge to do something special, they wanted to come closer to the spiritual meaning of Christ's birthday. They decided to meet at 7:15 every morning—men only—for half an hour's devotion in the grey stone Presbyterian Church. Perhaps 50 or so might show up, they thought.

The first morning 275 came. By the end of last week, the church was packed every morning with as many as 350 men in overalls and business suits. "It's hard to explain," said Wayne Slankard, "but this Christmas in Neosho has more meaning somehow than any we can remember."

—From *Time* Magazine, Dec. 29, 1947.

Bishop Preaches Outdoors

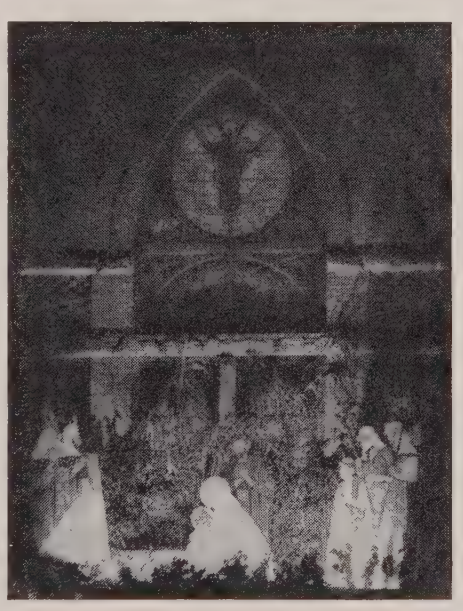
Bishop Paul E. Martin recently preached at a downtown service in a great rural town of the Jonesboro-Arkansas District from the Mobile Chapel belonging to that district. It was a part of a two-day program under the auspices of J. Albert Gatlin, the district superintendent.

The street was lined with people, and Bishop Martin delivered a stirring sermon on "The Power of the Gospel." The service made a wonderful impression and its effect was wholesome. It impressed outstanding laymen who were interested in the result and also the people who just happened to be on the street at the time.

WHAT DO YOU GO FOR?

Some go to church to take a walk;
Some go to church to laugh and talk;
Some go there to meet a friend;
Some go there their time to spend;
Some go there to meet a lover;
Some go there a fault to cover;
Some go there for speculation;
Some go there for observation;
Some go there to doze and nod;
The wise go there to worship God.

—Selected.



Methodist Church, Seguin, Texas

Radio and Newspaper Cooperate

The September SHEPHERDS is "extra super de luxe model" this year. I clipped several pages for our radio station KELF at Red Bluff, California. I also clipped some pages for the editor of the local *Red Bluff Daily News* on the matter of World Wide Communion Sunday, and also the information on "See You in Church Sunday."

I want to say that both the newspaper and the radio are most co-operative. The radio gives spot announcements to special church news. The newspaper has a very excellent Church News page. The local radio carries *The Upper Room* devotional.

I am here at Cone Community Church in the beautiful valley where we grow almonds, prunes, olives, etc. Our church and Sunday school is growing.

—*C. H. Witt,* Pastor, Red Bluff, California

THE UNSEEN HAND

(Matthew 6:1-4)

He held the lamp of truth that day
So low that none could miss the way;
And yet so high, to bring in sight
That picture fair—the World's Great Light—
That gazing up, the lamp between,
The hand that held it scarce was seen.

He held the pitcher, stooping low
To lips of little ones below;
Then raised it to the weary saint,
And bade him drink, when sick and faint,
They drank—the pitcher thus between,
The hand that held it scarce was seen.

He blew the trumpet soft and clear,
That trembling sinners need not fear;
And then, with louder note and bold
To raze the walls of Satan's hold.
The trumpet coming thus between,
The hand that held it scarce was seen.

But when the Captain says, "Well done,
Thou good and faithful servant—come!
Lay down the pitcher and the lamp;
Lay down the trumpet—leave the camp,"
These weary hands will then be seen
Clasped in those pierced ones—naught between!

—*Author unknown*

SELECTIVE LISTENING

by Harry L. Williams

Would you permit in your home every book that breaks into print? Would you take every medicine manufactured? Would you see every movie that is shown? Do you listen to everything that comes over the air?

It has been estimated that 59% of America's leisure time is spent listening to the radio. The average family listens almost five hours a day. The multiple radio homes have increased until one in three families have multiple radio sets.

Radio interests and influences people. You forget less of what you hear than what you need. Audible teaching carries an emotional impact that the printed page does not have.

Such a powerful influence coming into your home needs to be controlled! Radio must be an invited guest, not an invader, of your family life. The answer is selective family listening.

Families need help in working out this answer. One of the best guides is a little booklet, "Radio for the Family" by Pearl Roser, published by the International Council of Religious Education in cooperation with The Protestant Radio Commission. Order any quantity, 10c each from Tidings, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee. We recommend that this leaflet be distributed to every home in your parish.

Retreat and School

The Board of Evangelism of the Philadelphia Conference conducted a Retreat on September 16 and 17 at Plateau Lake with 51 ministers and 35 laymen in attendance. The speakers included Bishop Fred P. Corson of Philadelphia, Dr. Allen Claxton of New York City, and Mr. Wilbert Dougherty of Freeport, Pennsylvania.

We are also holding a School of Evangelism in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, with approximately 30 churches participating and 100 ministers in attendance.

—*George A. Laughead,* Conference Secretary of Evangelism

Conference-wide Visitation Evangelism

A Conference on Evangelism will be held on November 9 in the First Methodist Church, Marion, Indiana. The speakers will be Lowell B. Hazzard, Professor of Religion in Illinois Wesleyan University; Harry Denman of the General Board of Evangelism; and Bishop Richard C. Raines.

On November 10 a Conference-wide Visitation Evangelism crusade will be held, with the District Superintendents and District Secretaries of Evangelism directing the program.

—*L. G. Jacobs,* Conference Secretary of Evangelism

Conference Retreat

The Central New York Conference Board of Evangelism under the leadership of Phil Nason held a retreat September 19-21 at Lake Casowases. It was attended by forty-four men. Papers were read by Dr. Harold Swales on "New Testament and Evangelism." Dr. Alfred Coman on "Social Questions and Evangelism," by Dr. Harold Sterns on "Education and Evangelism" and by Reverend Warren Odom on "Counselling and Evangelism." James S. Chubb acted as counsellor for the group.

The Board plans to have a large part in the District Conference programs and a prayer retreat for each district under the leadership of the district superintendent.

Keep in Cottage Camp

I am managing a Cottage Camp at Goodland, Kansas—"The Itasca Court" on Highway 24—and keep a copy of *The Upper Room* in each cottage. Folks, many of them, have expressed appreciation.

—*Mrs. Grace Brotemarkle,* Goodland, Kansas.

Do you think that we should have a book for laymen which would inspire them to become personal workers for Christ and His Church?

If possible, we would want this book to sell for 35c, and to be written in language that will inspire and motivate the laymen and laywomen to do this greatest work of the Church—winning converts for Christ.

Brother Pastor, please write me a card about your wishes.

THE EDITOR

Literature in Vestibule

Have you noticed the new literature stand in the church vestibule? You will find plenty of free literature on it from time to time. In addition, we shall plan to have considerable other literature which will be provided at cost. At present you will find *Upper Room* on it, as well as copies of a paper bound book called *The Methodist Primer.* This is a book which gives a brief account of the history, doctrines, government, and other pertinent facts about The Methodist Church, which all of us should know. The little book sells for twenty-five cents. From time to time you will find other books on the stand.

—*The Parish Visitor,* McConnellsburg (Pa.) Methodist Church, Burton C. Bastuscheck, pastor

APPROVED EVANGELISTS

Herbert R. Bennett
(Southern Illinois Conference)
1311 20th St., Granite City, Ill.

Sept. 20-Oct 3 ..... Vienna, Ill.
Oct. 4-17 ..... Murphysboro, Ill.
Oct. 18-31 ..... Caseyville, Ill.
Nov. 1-14 ..... State St. Methodist, Camden, N. J.
Nov. 15-21 ..... Gibbsboro, N. J.
Nov. 29-Dec. 12 ..... Mounds, Ill.
Dec. 13-Jan. 9 ..... Open
Jan. 10-23 ..... Anna, Ill.
Jan. 24-Feb. 6 ..... Open
Feb. 7-20 ..... Lawrenceville, Ill.
Feb. 21-March 6 ..... Marion, Ill.
March 7-20 ..... Alton, Ill.
March 21-April 3 ..... Open
April 4-17 ..... Olney, Ill.
April 25-May 8 ..... Cairo, Ill.
May 9-22 ..... Fairfield, Ill.
May 23-June 22 ..... Open
June 23 Fletcher Grove Camp Meeting, Delanco, N. J.

Lawrence L. Lacour
(Iowa-Des Moines Conference)
Box 963
Des Moines, Iowa

Oct. 31-Nov. 14 .. Fourth Avenue Methodist Church, Louisville, Ky.
Nov. 21-Dec. 5 ... The First Methodist Church, Centralia, Ill.
Dec. 7-19.... Colesburg Methodist Circuit, Colesburg, Iowa.

The musicians and singers in front of the harp in the picture on page 21 belong to the Lacour Evangelistic Party.

A group of young people at Pekin, Illinois, hold a songfest in the church basement after the Sunday evening service. How fine such gatherings would be on New Year's Eve preceding the Watch Night Service!

Six Things a Church Member Can Do

1. Pray (I Tim. 2:1).
2. Read one book of the Bible each week (John 5:39).
3. Make one visit each week in the name of Christ and for his glory (James 1:27).
4. Invite at least one person each week to attend the public worship of God with him (Psalm 122:1).
5. Attend the three hours of Bible study and worship in the church each Lord's day (Heb. 10:25).
6. Bring an offering each Lord's day (Exod. 23:15).

—Brown C. Welch, in *Cumberland Presbyterian*

A Saturday Evening Prayer Meeting

Anything that works is worth passing on to others. For nearly twelve months the Christian workers of this church have met in a Saturday evening prayer meeting in the sanctuary, there to pray for the church, the minister, the teachers, and particularly those who are afflicted, physically, mentally, or spiritually.

People have come from nearby cities and towns to get into a prayer meeting on a Saturday evening, when the most of the people are going elsewhere for their change of environment. One man came from Philadelphia to ask the prayers of God's people for his son, another called on the telephone from the same city for the people to pray for a sister in Altoona, Pa., who was in a paralized condition. All members of the church who are sick are prayed for and visited.

The average attendance is ten and the average time in prayer two hours, from eight to ten o'clock. The minister always joins with the people and continues through to the end of the prayers of the people, with results that reflect in the next morning service, the church school and every department of the church. It works! We also hold prayer meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays—Mondays in the homes.

—*Kenneth P. Stevens,* Pastor, First Methodist Church, National Park, N. J.

For Christ and His Church
Vitamins for Vital Soul Winning

Would you object to filling out this blank and returning it without any signature?

Each Day

I spend _____ time reading the Bible to meet my spiritual needs.

Each Day

I spend _____ time listening and praying to satisfy my spiritual needs.

Each Day

I spend _____ time visiting the inactive members trying to reclaim them for Christ and His Church.

Each Day

I spend _____ time visiting the active members of the church trying to help them to grow in Our Faith.

Each Day

I spend _____ time visiting non-believers trying to get them to make a profession of faith in Christ and unite with His Church.

BROTHER PASTOR

Will you please fill this out and mail to TIDINGS? Do not sign your name unless you desire.

Prayer Requests

A young man converted last Sunday afternoon at Camp Reveal and who has a difficult time ahead as he lives a new life in Christ.

Another young man who is seeking to find his place in the service of our Lord.

A mother whose eyes are failing and who is facing this with the calm faith of a Christian, but who needs strength.

A soul near despair on account of weakness and failure.

A man who is not clear about his relationship with God.

All those who treat sin as merely mistake in judgment, and who deny the possibility of the soul being eternally separated from God. (Read Isaiah 59:1, 2, and Ezekiel 33:1-20.)

—Bulletin, Central Methodist Church, Evansville, Indiana, Horace A. Sprague, pastor.

Am I a Winner?

"Am I a living witness for Christ and a winner of men? If not, why not? This question is fundamental. If I am not a winner of men it may be because of one of four reasons:

(1) IGNORANCE, or never having learned how. Some are not winning others simply because they have never learned the simple act of introducing men to Jesus Christ.

(2) FEAR OF MAN, AND LACK OF FAITH IN GOD.

(3) LACK OF ABUNDANT LIFE. Some of us do not speak because we feel we have no message. We have nothing worth passing on. Life begets life; abundant life overflows. If we have been with Him, we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

(4) HIDDEN SIN. The price to be paid for New Life is an undivided heart. Are we willing to pay the price?

"Let us each personally face this searching question: Am I a winner of men? If not, which of the four reasons mentioned is the cause of my being a fruitless branch?"

—Board of Evangelism Report, New Jersey Conference.

My Prayer

Give me a life of joy to share,
Give me a life of burdens to bear,
Give me a life to be mindful of
My heavenly Father's wonderful love.

—*James Kurtz,* Altoona, Pa.

Bus Transportation

The picture below is that of the Methodist church at Grass Valley, California, where bus transportation has been started to bring people in outlying areas to Sunday school and church. Three stories concerning bus transportation were in November *Shepherds.*

BROTHER PASTOR:

We pulled the copy from this space at the last minute. What we had here can appear at a later date.

We feel that we cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of CHRISTMAS, WATCH NIGHT, and the NEW YEAR as opportunities for evangelism and spiritual enrichment.

How fine it will be to make COVENANT SUNDAY a day for each member to ADVANCE spiritually in a sincere covenant with God! Enclosed is a sample covenant card which is planned to that end. Planned to that end also is the booklet that will be sent free to every member of yours who signs the covenant card and mails us the request for it.

An article about Covenant Sunday will appear in January SHEPHERDS, but it will be necessary for you to ORDER the Covenant cards, the Covenant Sunday worship service, and other materials NOW—because Christmas mails are so slow. An order blank folder is enclosed.

You may charge the materials to your church treasurer. Churches are beginning to see that it is as important to buy evangelistic materials as it is to purchase church school or any other sort of supplies.

Plan to have in your church a real ADVANCE FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

Your friend,
Geo. H. Jones, Editor

? ? ? ?

Have you organized your Committee on Membership and Evangelism? . . . in keeping with the new legislation?

Does your church and charge plan to win "1 for 17" this Conference Year?—"One" person on confession of faith and from preparatory membership for every "seventeen" active members?

SHEPHERDS Magazine is planning to be a big help to you and your Committee on Membership and Evangelism, month by month, but you and the Committee will have to start at once.

How many persons will your church win for Christ and His Church between Thanksgiving and Christmas?

? ? ? ?

Message from Denmark

A couple of my colleague pastors and I have been reading the SHEPHERDS for some time, and we have found out that it is the magazine every Methodist pastor ought to have. I have been reading . . . for many years several Christian magazines; but find that SHEPHERDS has information and facts about the spiritual work of our Church and is in many ways very inspiring for an active living pastor. Some of my colleagues, especially the younger ones, are very eager to have SHEPHERDS. . . . I am your co-worker in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

—*Ejler Soerensen,* Copenhagen, Denmark

From Brazil

SHEPHERDS is a wonderful magazine and doing great good. Many thanks for the same.

—*W. H. and Nell Moore,* Rudge Ramos, Brazil

A Rich Source

It is always a real inspiration to read SHEPHERDS. I have found in this magazine a rich source of spiritual strength and practical method for evangelism throughout preaching and pastoral work.

—*Frank E. Sweeten,* Associate, First Methodist Church, Collingswood, New Jersey

Evangelistic and Helpful

I have just received this month's copy of SHEPHERDS. Allow me to congratulate you and your staff of workers on the splendid work that you are doing. I deeply appreciate this magazine. I find many good suggestions to help in my work. It is evangelistic. It is helpful. It is worth far more to us than you will ever know. Keep up the good work. On your second anniversary of a great magazine, allow me to say "thank you" to you and all others who help make this possible.

—*R. W. James G. Stroud,* Pastor St. John Methodist Church, Graniteville, S. C.

A part of the crowd that attended the Adult, Leadership, and Planning Conference held July 19-23, 1948, at the Clinton District Methodist Church Camp in Hydro, Oklahoma. More than 200 people attended.

A Service of Worship for Covenant Sunday or Watch Night

by GEO. H. JONES

Editor of Shepherds

Here is a worship service that can be used in large church or small, in city or in open country. It is appropriate for Friday night, December 31, or Sunday morning, January 2, or any other Sunday in January.

Circuit pastors may use it every Sunday in January in every church on the circuit.

Excellent for use with the Covenant Card specially prepared for an Advance for Christ and His Church, by the General Board of Evangelism and available from TIDINGS.

$2.00 per 100

Order an ample supply—one for every person expected to be present.

Other Watch Night Worship Services

1. **"Beyond the Dark, the Dawn,"** by Earl Marlatt,
   author of the famous hymn, "Are Ye Able?"
2. **"New Life in the New Year,"** by Allen E. Claxton,
   Pastor of Broadway Temple—Washington Heights Church, New York City.

These were available last year. Either is an excellent Service of Worship for Watch Night for a congregation that has not used it.

$2.00 per 100—Take your choice

Another Covenant Service Available

John Wesley's famous "Covenant Service"

Pastors have ordered more than half a million copies from TIDINGS during the last few years. If you have not recently used this, perhaps you would prefer this.

$2.00 per 100

Christmas Leaflet

Excellent for distribution in every home is the leaflet

How Shall I Spend Christmas?

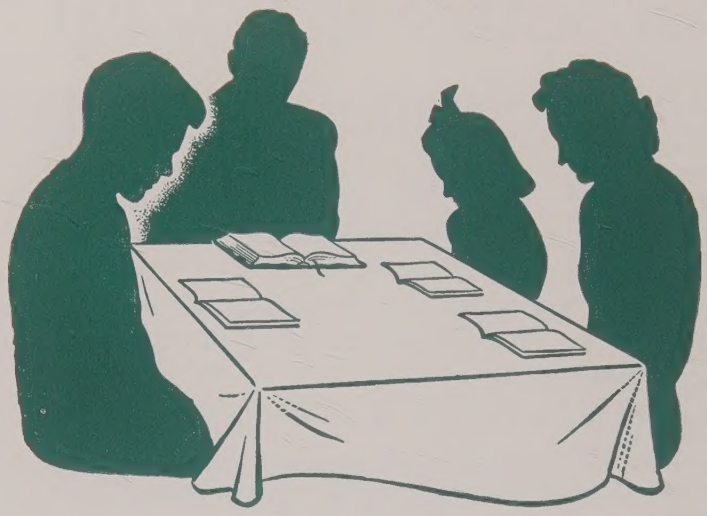
by J. Manning Potts

Editor, *The Upper Room*

$2.00 per 100

Order all of the above from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 4, Tennessee

Order blank folder mailed with this magazine



family devotions

MAKE HOLIDAYS

Holy Days

Help your families to make the birthday of our Lord a day of holy significance. Encourage them to gather before their tree or creche for family devotions. What better resolution can they make for the New Year than a covenant to have personal and family devotions daily.

The Upper Room *will help you—Be sure you have enough copies on hand.*

cover photo—H. Armstrong Roberts

It's the Only One

Your copy of *Shepherds*—with its practical suggestions for your church program—is the only mailing you receive from the Board of Evangelism. Use it now as you plan your work. Keep it handy for suggestions and then file it for future reference.